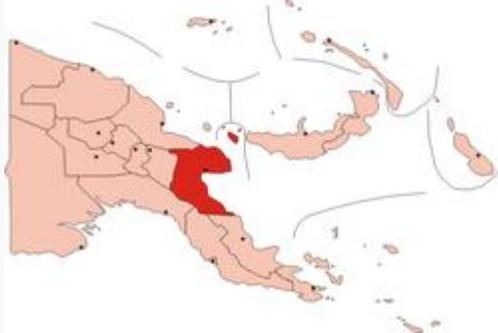


Morobe Province

Morobe Province

— [Province](#) —



Country  [Papua New Guinea](#)

Capital [Lae](#)

Government

- **Governor** [Luther Wenge](#) (2002-)

Area

- **Total** 13,320.5 sq mi (34,500 km²)

Population (2000)

- **Total** 539,725

- **Density** 40.5/sq mi (15.6/km²)

[Time zone](#) [AEST \(UTC+10\)](#)

Morobe Province (previously named **Adolfhafen** in [German New Guinea](#)) is a province on the northern coast of [Papua New Guinea](#). The provincial capital, and largest city, is [Lae](#). The province covers 34,500 km², including 719 km² maritime area, with a population of 539,725 (2000 census). It includes the [Huon Peninsula](#), the [Markham River](#), and delta, and coastal territories along the [Huon Gulf](#). The province has nine administrative districts, and 171 languages are spoken, including Kâte and Yabim. [English](#) and [Pidgin English](#) are common languages in the urban areas, and in some areas forms of [Pidgin](#) German are mixed with the native language.

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History

World War II

See also: [New Guinea campaign](#)

Morobe province was a key campaign site during World War II. The Japanese had established strong supply bases in the towns of [Lae](#) and [Salamaua](#) in 1942. The [Salamaua-Lae campaign](#) of the following year was a series of actions in which the Australian and United States forces sought to capture the two Japanese bases. The campaign to take the area began with the Australian attack on Japanese positions near Mubo, on 22 April 1943 and ended with the fall of Lae on 16 September 1943, in [Operation Postern](#). The campaign was notable not only for its classic defense maneuvers at the [Landing at Nadzab](#) and the brutal hand-to-hand combat at Salamaua; [Lyndon B. Johnson](#), the 36th President of the United States, saw his sole 13 minutes of combat on a bombing mission over Lae. Although the plane he was supposed to fly was shot down, with no survivors, his flight in [B-26 Marauder](#) had repercussions throughout the Pacific theater. Sent as an observer, with instructions to report up the line to Roosevelt, to Congress, and to the Navy brass that the conditions in the Pacific were deplorable, the men had third-rate equipment to fight Japan's first class planes. The effort needed another 6,800 trained and experienced men, plus better supplies, provisions, and generally a higher priority in the war effort.

The [Lae War Cemetery](#) is located adjacent to the Botanical Gardens in the center of the city of Lae. The cemetery was begun in 1944 by the Australian Army Graves Services, and the Commonwealth Graves Commission assumed responsibility for it in 1947. The Lae Memorial commemorates 300 men of the Australian forces (including Merchant Navy, Royal Australian Air Force, and the Australian Army) who lost their lives and have no known grave. It contains 2300–2800 burials, of which 444 are unidentified.

Ecology

Papua New Guinea is part of the [Australasia ecozone](#). Through [eco-tourism](#), the Province capitalizes on its spectacular scenery, readily accessible diving locales, and its mountains, and jungles to offer tourists rich experiences in coral reef, rain forest, sub-alpine and alpine and tropical habitats. The Province's jungles and forests are also popular for viewing over 1000 of species of birds and mammals, including the colourful [Raggiana Bird of Paradise](#), the flightless [Cassowary](#) and varieties of [macropods](#), including the [Tree-kangaroo](#) and over 15,000 species of plants. The Huon Peninsula, which comprises most of the provincial land-mass, is a unique [montane eco-region](#) that offers a variety of plants and conditions found nowhere else in the world. Its coral reefs and volcanic inlets are home to thousands of species of fish and oceanic life that thrive in the reefs and wrecks.

In 2009 the [YUS Conservation Area](#) has been established in the northern part of the [Huon Peninsula](#). YUS stretches over 760 km² and includes three rivers: Yopno, Uruwa and Som, after which it was named. It is a critical habitat for the endangered [Matschie's Tree-kangaroo](#).

Economy

See also: [Economy of Papua New Guinea](#)

Morobe Province's economy has grown at the rate of approximately two percent *per annum* since 2006. The economic base of the Morobe Province depends on the production and harvesting of [cocoa](#), [coffee](#), [copra](#) and [sugar](#), and tropical fruits (bananas, coconuts). Oil and gas industries are emerging, as is new mining and energy industry. Deteriorating roads and the lack of manufacturing and transportation/communication infrastructure impedes economic development.

Demographics

See also: [Demographics of Papua New Guinea](#)

The relative youth of the Morobe province population puts an increasing strain on schools and education services to combat [illiteracy](#) and its accompanying problems. Eight percent of the population (children) depend on twenty percent of the population (adults) for economic support, and population continues to grow at about 2.8 percent per year, which is higher than other developing countries.

Languages

The population of Morobe speak over 171 languages, representing 27 language families. The two main languages are [Kâte](#) and [Yabem](#), Kâte being spoken in the mountainous hinterlands and Yabem, on the coastal areas, particularly on the Huon peninsula coast. Along the coast and in the Markham Valley, the [Austronesia](#) family of languages predominate. The [Papuan languages](#) are heard most commonly in the mountain regions. English, and especially [Pidgin English](#), are the common urban languages in Lae. In some areas, especially where the German missionaries maintained their Missions, such as Sattelberg and Finschhafen, pidgin German might be mixed with Kâte.

Government



Morobe Governor [Luther Wenge](#) in May 2011.

The Province sends nine members to the [national parliament](#), and has 14 members of the *Tutumang* the provincial assembly. *Tutumang* means "the coming together," and the Province maintains that name for its assembly, as is permitted under the Organic Law on Provincial Government and Local Government.

Districts and LLGs

Each province in Papua New Guinea has one or more districts, and each district has one or more Local Level Government (LLG) areas. For [census](#) purposes, the LLG areas are subdivided into wards and those into census units.

District	District Capital	LLG Name
Bulolo District	Bulolo	Mumeng Rural Waria Rural Watut Rural Wau Bulolo Urban Wau Rural Buang Rural
Finschaffen District	Gagidu	Hube Rural Kotte Rural Finschafen Rural Yabim-Mape Rural Borum-Kuat Rural Morobe Rural
Huon District	Salamaua	Salamaua Rural Wampar rural Deyamos Rural Komba (Seko) rural
Kabwum District	Kabwum	Yus Rural Selepet Rural
Lae District	Lae	Ahi Rural Lae Urban
Markham District	Kaiapit	Onga-Wafa Rural Umi-Atzero Rural Wantoat-Leron Rural Kapao Rural Nanima Kariba
Menyamya District	Menyamya	Kome Rural Wapi Rural Labuta Rural
Nawae District	Boana	Nabak Rural Wain-Erap Rural
Tewai-Siassi District	Wasu	Sialum Rural Siassi Rural Wasu Rural

See also

- [Geography of Papua New Guinea](#)
- [Culture of Papua New Guinea](#)

References

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3. [^] [Conservation International](#), retrieved 19 May 2010
4. [^] Morobe Provincial Government, [Economy and Industry](#). Accessed 14 September 2009.
5. [^] ^a ^b Morobe Provincial Government, [Issues](#). Accessed 14 September 2009.