TRAVELLING WITH AIR NIUGINI AND PNG AIR
Starting from Brisbane, Air Nuigini were great with allowing me to carry on my camera gear (12kg in all but across 2 carry on sized bags), they did make an announcement as to the one bag limit at the gate but after I approached the gate agent and explained my cargo they were happy for me to carry on due to the flight being half full (I had packed the international standard of 1 bag and one personal item so the 1 bag limit almost caught me). I got lucky with my transfer in Port Moresby as I obviously looked a little lost trying to find the domestic terminal and ended up being helped by a lovely lady who was also headed for Tufi and knew where I had to go to recheck my bags - Leave the terminal (the signs in the terminal send you to a blank wall), turn right, walk up 100m to domestic.
I had no issues with PNG air from Port Moresby to Tufi - in fact I was surprised that the plane was bigger than what is used in Fiji for the Nadi to Tavenun hop!?
Our flight back to Port Moresby was delayed due to weather but we had plenty of time for the connection.

STAYING AT TUFU RESORT
My accommodation was great with a fantastic view over the mouth of the fjord and out into the ocean which was great to be able to wake up and check out the conditions first thing in the morning! The air con was a real treat too! The meal package does make life very easy though if you are not a big eater like myself, you do get a lot of food! Prices for extras, drinks, snacks etc are in line with Australian resorts due to the remoteness of the resort and the fact that everything comes by barge or plane, not a really big stretch of the wallet though. The current internet is quite slow but plans are currently in place to upgrade the system at a minimal daily cost, fingers crossed this will be rolled out in the next few months as the system was overloaded once more than 3 guests were online.

THE DIVING AND PHOTOGRAPHY
Due to the time of year I was there, I had been warned that our trips to the outer reef dive sites were all weather dependent but we actually didn’t miss one day (a couple of the first few days were a little rough getting out but the diving more than made up for any discomfort). I dived with a lovely British couple for my first week and then had a few people join me on other days.
Due to there being a larger group in from Oz, the boats were split with the group going out earlier but this was handled really well (As a photographer, nothing brings fear like an overcrowded boat/camera bucket!). Though the poor guys were super keen for Hammerheads and it turned out that we got the better experience going out later in the day---Oh well, that is diving for you.
The one on one guiding from JT and the rest of the dive crew was great on the 2 days I was alone, as they were happy to pick their knowledge. (The guys are a bit shy if they aren’t sure and having the ID sheets will help newer divers learn local species)
For photographers, while wide angle is king on the outer cyclone reefs (Hammerheads need a kit or zoom lens)—don’t forget to pack your macro lenses for the house reef goodies (Mandarin fish, juvenile long fin bat fish, nudibranchs galore, white mantis shrimps etc etc) There are hours of entertainment down there, in fact I was often tapped on the shoulder by my guide, not because of air consumption but because the poor guy was cold after 90 mins!

MCLAAREN HARBOUR CULTURAL TOUR
The cultural tour was a real treat and definitely worth doing (I hadn’t realised it was part of my prize!) - One note on the tour though - It is run on the Sunday so I did it on my 3rd day - would have been great later in the trip as a rest day. There are also plenty of opportunities to buy local crafts both on the tour and on the walk down to the dive shop - handy to have some local currency for this.

IN SUMMARY
All in all, Tufi was by far the most untouched diving I have had the pleasure to experience. (Compared to East Timor by liveboard which has set the bar VERY high for me) and is definitely worth more than one visit. The mix of sharks, soft and hard corals, neat macro on the house reef and the laid back atmosphere of the resort makes it a must do on my list!

- Heather Sutton
Images from Tufi by Heather Sutton