



Reef & Rainforest



Sepik River, Madang and the Spectacular Goroka Show

Group Tour led by Local guides

07 – 18 September 2023



Sepik River, Madang and the Spectacular Goroka Show - Papua New Guinea Group Tour 2023

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Led by various regional guides, this two-week group tour is perfectly suited to those with limited time to visit Papua New Guinea. The group will firstly visit remote villages along the Sepik River, travelling by motorised canoe for a truly authentic glimpse of village life along New Guinea's longest artery. Next we travel to the warm coastal resort of Madang for the opportunity to experience the local culture and snorkel or dive the colourful coral reefs. Finally comes the highlight of the trip: we ascend to the cool Eastern Highlands for the spectacular Goroka Show, the oldest and largest cultural festival (or *sing sing*) in the country. For two days, over 100 highland tribes come together to display their unique music, regional dances and tribal rituals: a spectacle like no other on earth.

- 07 Sep Depart SINGAPORE on AIR NIUGINI flight to PORT MORESBY.
- 08 Sep Arrive in PORT MORESBY. Meet with group and catch AIR NIUGINI flight to WEWAK. Met and tfr to the hotel. O/n IN WEWAK BOUTIQUE HOTEL, (RO).
- 09 Sep Morning tfr by road to PAGWI (c.4 hours) then transfer to motorised dugout canoe and commence Sepik river Canoe Safari. O/n CHAMBRI GUEST HOUSE, (BLD).
- 10 Sep Depart Palimbe and visit Middle Sepik Villages before continuing to Wagu Lake. O/n WAGU GUEST HOUSE, (BLD).
- 11 Sep Early morning visit to the rainforest to see the Lesser Bird of Paradise. Later visit Wasukuk area including Meno and Tonginmjam. O/n AMBUNTI LODGE, (BLD).
- 12 Sep Return to Pagwi by canoe and transfer by road to Maprik for mini cultural show. Later transfer to Wewak. O/n IN WEWAK BOUTIQUE HOTEL, (BL).
- 13 Sep Early morning tfr to the airport and catch PNG Air flight to MADANG. Tfr to the hotel for breakfast. Afternoon tour of the town including the Coast Watchers Memorial, Madang Museum and Bilbil village. O/n MADANG RESORT HOTEL, (B)
- 14 Sep Morning harbour cruise to Siar Island, Pig Island and snorkelling. Later, visit Amele Villages, including Hobe, Suyao and Haya. O/n MADANG RESORT HOTEL, (B)
- 15 Sep Morning pick up from the hotel and tfr by road (c7-8 hours) to GOROKA. Tfr to the hotel. O/n PACIFIC GARDENS HOTEL, (BL)
- 16 Sep Full day spent at the GOROKA SHOW. O/n PACIFIC GARDENS HOTEL, (BL)
- 17 Sep Full day spent at the GOROKA SHOW. O/n PACIFIC GARDENS HOTEL, (BL)
- 18 Sep Tfr to the airport. Catch AIR NIUGINI flight to PORT MORESBY. Met and assisted with connection to AIR NIUGINI flight to SINGAPORE.



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PAPUA NEW GUINEA GROUP ITINERARY **THE SEPIK RIVER, MADANG AND THE SPECTACULAR GOROKA SHOW**

07 Sep Depart SINGAPORE on AIR NIUGINI flight to PORT MORESBY.

08 Sep Arrive PORT MORESBY. Met on arrival at the airport and assisted with connection to AIR NIUGINI to WEWAK. Met on arrival at the airport and transfer to the hotel. O/n IN WEWAK BOUTIQUE HOTEL, (RO). Situated on Wewak Hill overlooking the beautiful Bismarck Sea. Accommodation in room with private bathroom, air conditioning and satellite TV. Facilities at the hotel include resort style pool, Cocoa Cafe & Vanilla Room Restaurants for meals.



09 Sep After Breakfast, depart Wewak by private vehicle to Pagwi. The drive will take you over the Prince Alexander Ranges through to Passam, Kubalia, Yangoru, Hayfield /Maprik, Wosera to reach Pagwi. Most of the road is sealed, there is a one hour of the drive, which is on a dirt road. From Pagwi station you will start Motorised Canoe Safari Trip and travel to Palimbe. There is a cluster of three villages, Palimbe, Yenchan and Kanganamun. These villages have stood firm against the invasion of Christianity. They still have their Haus Tambarans (Spirit House) and practice their customs including the initiation or scarification on young boys that depict the crocodile as symbol of power and strength. The villages are also famous artists and they make carvings with bird heads. O/n CHAMBRI GUEST HOUSE, (BLD). Accommodation is very basic. Simple hut made out of local material. There is pit toilet outside the hut; no shower, no electricity but light will be provided by the lamp. Mattresses with Mosquito nets are provided. NB: Torch (and spare battery) is a "must" item to bring along.



(2).../ THE SEPIK RIVER, MADANG & THE SPECTACULAR GOROKA SHOW

10 Sep

Continue up the SEPIK RIVER in simple motorised canoe. Visit Yenchen village and enjoy "Crocodile Dance". After Yenchen, your motorized canoe travels up the river and visit Yessan village to enjoy the Sepik style Sing Sing and then continue to Wagu. As you canoe further into the tributary, the majestic Hunstein range approaches rapidly until you reach the foot hill at Wagu village to overnight in the village guest house. Wagu Lake is the gateway to the Hunstein Range Wildlife



Management area and WWF tries to preserve the vast Rainforest and its inhabitants. In the evening you will visit a vast lake environment full of herons, cormorants, wild ducks, egrets, kites, jacanas and lots of species of water birds.

O/n WAGU GUEST HOUSE, (BLD). Accommodation is in a basic village hut but has common toilet, cold water shower adjacent to the main accommodation building. For a humid night, battery operated personal fan may be useful to get cool air.



11 Sep

Early morning visit to the nearby forest to see the Lesser Bird of Paradise. Next you will head to the Wasukuk villages and visit the Haus Tambaran in Meno, where you will also enjoy a traditional sing sing. Finally you will visit Tongijamb village, which has the best Haus Tambaran in the area. The last visit will be to the small government station of Ambunti where you will be transferred to the rustic lodge. O/n AMBUNTI LODGE, (BLD). A basic lodge, air-conditioned with en-suite toilet & cold water shower in each room. The power is supplied by generator and it runs until 2200hrs and start again in the morning. Torch (and spare battery) is useful for the dark night, as well as a battery operated personal fan for humid nights (after the power goes off).



12 Sep

Early morning departure (6.30am) from the lodge to Pagwi. Change to road transfer and visit Maprik. The village has distinctive Maprik style Haus Tambaran and you will enjoy a mini culture show there. Continue by road to Wewak and transfer to the hotel. O/n IN WEWAK BOUTIQUE HOTEL, (BL).

(3).../ THE SEPIK RIVER, MADANG & THE SPECTACULAR GOROKA SHOW

13 Sep Morning pick up from the hotel and transfer to the airport. Catch PNG AIR flight to MADANG. Met on arrival at the airport and transfer to the hotel. Afternoon tour of Madang Town including Coast Watchers Memorial, Madang Museum and Bilbil village. O/n MADANG RESORT HOTEL, (B). The Madang resort hotel is ideally located close to the centre of Madang, overlooking the Madang harbour. There are a total of 150 rooms, of varying standards surrounded by beautiful gardens that are home to exotic birds. Rooms have private bathroom, air-conditioning, satellite TV, telephone and most have private balconies overlooking the gardens or harbour.



14 Sep After breakfast, pick up from the hotel for a half day harbour cruise, including a visit to Siar island for a short walks and Pig Island for snorkelling, before returning to the hotel. Afternoon tour to Amele Villages including Hobe, Suyao and Haya. Enjoy a sing sing performance at Haya Village. O/n MADANG RESORT HOTEL, (B).



15 Sep Morning pick up from the hotel and commence the overland journey (7-8 hours) to GOROKA. This is a spectacular road trip over the rugged mountains. On the way, stop at Yonki Hydro Dam for wonderful scenery and Kainantu pottery centre. On arrival in Goroka, transfer to the hotel. Goroka is situated 1600m above sea level and boasts its ever-spring weather. It is "Coffee Capital" of Papua New Guinea where high-grade organic Arabica coffees are produced on its rich soil. It is also a home for famous "Asaro Mudman". In the Tribal fight age, Asaro tribes were always beaten by the enemy tribes. While they were running away from the enemy, they jumped into the mud-pond, and all of their body was covered with mud. The enemy tribesmen were scared of them and vacated the land and withdrew. Since then, Mudman became the guarding symbol of Asaro villages. (Contd.../)



(4).../ THE SEPIK RIVER, MADANG & THE SPECTACULAR GOROKA SHOW

(Contd.../) O/n PACIFIC GARDENS HOTEL, (BL) Located in the beautiful Pacific Gardens Estate and one of the best hotels in Goroka. The hotel is located in over 20 acres of land with walking trails, barbecue area, playground and a meandering mountain stream. Accommodation is in comfortable rooms with private bathroom, tea and coffee facilities and tv.



16 Sep

Morning pick up from the hotel and transfer to the hotel and show ground. You will visit Goroka Show over the 2 days. The staging of the Goroka Show started back in 1957 at the Independence Park opposite the Goroka Main Market. It was first introduced and organized by Australian Kiaps (Patrol Officers). Kiaps from each district built round houses typical of their districts. They proudly displayed cultures of their districts. The kiaps brought in sing sing groups from their area - twenty nine different languages and societies in Eastern Highlands was reflected in their culture. Over the years, Goroka show has grown to one of the most vivid cultural events in Papua New Guinea, where visitors can experience the customs of over a hundred tribes that populate the Papua New Guinea highlands. During the course of the weekend the tribes gather for music, dancing, showing-off and extraordinary displays of tribal rituals.



Amongst the performers are the legendary mud men of Asaro. Tribal folklore records that centuries ago the warriors of Asaro were defeated in a tribal fight "payback" raid, and, to make themselves look fierce in the process, covered their bodies with grey mud. According to legend, the ruse worked. Their enemies fled at the sight of these ghostly apparitions. The mud men recreated the drama at the Goroka show. O/n PACIFIC GARDENS HOTEL, (BL)



(5).../ THE SEPIK RIVER, MADANG & THE SPECTACULAR GOROKA SHOW

- 17 Sep Another day at the GOROKA show (shared). O/n PACIFIC GARDENS HOTEL, (BL).
- 18 Sep Morning pick up from the hotel and transfer to the airport. Catch AIR NIUGINI flight to PORT MORESBY. Met on arrival at the airport and assisted with connection to AIR NIUGINI flight to SINGAPORE.

Number of Participants: Minimum 4, Maximum 10

Price: £5,387

Single Supplement: £895

NB: Single Supplement is Single room EXCEPT during the SEPIK VILLAGE stay, which will be on a twin share basis. Single rooms may be possible subject to availability. Please Enquire.

To include: Return international flights from Singapore to Port Moresby, domestic flights, accommodation, transfers, nearly all meals, all tours and excursions as stated, site fees, transportation with experienced driver, services of various local guides, Goroka show Tourist Pass, government taxes, service charges.

Excludes: International flights to Singapore, meals not described and personal costs such as drinks, laundry, telephone, Visa fees (if applicable)





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IMPORTANT NOTES TO ACCOMPANY THE ABOVE ITINERARY

NB: Visas are required for travel. If you wish to arrange your visa before arrival, please contact the PNG High Commission. It is currently possible to obtain a visa on arrival, free of charge.

NB: Baggage Restrictions – Baggage allowance on Airlines PNG flights is limited. Clients must restrict their luggage to 16kgs plus a small carry-on hand or camera bag. The airline is strict and will charge for excess weight.

NB: All itineraries are subject to change without notice to take into account possible airline flight schedule changes which can take place before departure date or during the tour, and other operational factors.

NB: The quoted price for the above itinerary is based on current airline fares (both international and domestic), fuel surcharges and flight taxes. These (and other tour costs) may be subject to unanticipated increases beyond our control at short notice, either before or after you have booked the tour, in which case the price would need to be revised accordingly.

NB: This tour involves some travel in remote areas. This adds to the adventure and increases the opportunity to enjoy a true wildlife experience. However, due to terrain, weather, road conditions, and other factors beyond our control, some elements of the tour may have to be altered. Times of some activities may need to be changed or even cancelled due to the conditions. If an activity is cancelled it will usually be replaced with an alternative activity that is more appropriate for the conditions. Advance notice will be given for any changes where possible, although at times changes may need to be made whilst the tour is in progress.

NB: Prices are based on a specific airlines and specific economy seating classes. Flights are booked on an ad hoc basis and so early booking is recommended to take advantage of the cheapest fare availability. Prices may rise if a more expensive seat class needs to be booked. Please call for information on price variations for using alternative airlines or for seat upgrades.

NB: It is a condition of booking that full travel insurance including Emergency Medical Repatriation is taken out by each person travelling. Your insurance cover must also include Missed Departure and/or Missed Flight Connection for both outbound and return flight sectors (such cover might be subject to a small additional premium – please confirm with your insurers). We ask that you send us a photo/fax/electronic copy of your policy document together with the 24hr medical assistance telephone number issued by your insurer.

NB: Clients must be aware that hotels, lodges and resorts as well as suppliers of tours and excursions used in this itinerary might not comply with European standards of health and safety. For instance, balconies may not be entirely child-safe or may be low in height, so always ensure children are kept away from balconies and do not go near them when intoxicated or unwell; swimming pools may not display depths, so never dive into a pool without checking depth first; vehicles may not always have safety belts fitted - contact our representatives if so, and refuse to travel; public areas might not be well lit, so take extra care and use a torch. Clients must be vigilant and take extra care for their own safety, as they may well be travelling to remote and primitive locations where high quality standards of safety may not be present.

NB: Before and after booking, clients must familiarise themselves with current UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) travel advisories so as to satisfy themselves as to the suitability of the destination(s) to be visited in this itinerary. All decisions relating to the tour will be based on UK FCO advisories, and not those of any other countries' governments. In the event of any emergency or other problem encountered in the destination, it is advisable if appropriate to contact the local UK Embassy, High Commission or Consulate for assistance. The FCO in London also has dedicated telephone call centres: Crisis Management Dept - 0207 008 5335 (during UK office hours), and Global Response Centre - 0207 008 1500 (out of UK office hours).

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