



Ecotourism Melanesia

Discover Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

EM3C SEPIK RIVER DAY TRIP 1 DAY EXCURSION FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS **1 day Middle or Lower Sepik River**

This private day trip package is designed for travellers who only have limited time available to experience the Sepik River, and those who prefer not to “rough it” sleeping in village guest houses or rustic lodges along the river (there are no hotels along the Sepik - the nearest is at Wewak).

NB These day trips operate on-demand for private bookings only. There are no scheduled departures. Five different variations (options) of the day trip are offered. Our experienced Sepik River guide accompanies you for the whole day, from pickup to dropoff. Local-style food is provided for lunch so you can taste what the local villagers normally eat, but you are also welcome to bring your own lunch (most hotels in Wewak provide packed lunches on request).

Overnight accommodation in Wewak before and after the excursion is required due to the long day (unless you are arriving on a cruise ship) which you can arrange yourself or we can arrange your accommodation at extra cost as quoted below.

The five trip variations (options) are constrained by the following travel times:

- *Wewak to Middle Sepik (Pagwi) by road - 4 hours*
- *Wewak to Middle Sepik (Timbunke) by air - 30 minutes*
- *Wewak to Lower Sepik (Angoram) by road - 3 hours*

Options 2 and 5 involve travel via air to Timbunke airfield on a pay-per-seat basis which is normally available Tuesdays only at the time of writing (this schedule is subject to change). Option 3 requires a charter flight to Timbunke (maximum 9 people per flight) which can usually be arranged any day Monday to Saturday with sufficient advance notice.

OPTION 1 - Middle Sepik (Korogo Village) - in and out by road

14 hours duration - depart Wewak 7am return by 9pm. Available 7 days a week.

Pick up by private 4WD car at your accommodation at 7am and arrive at Pagwi around 11am. Transfer to a waiting motor canoe and travel downstream 1 hour to Korogo, the first Yatmul tribe crocodile cult village. Spend 4 hours at the village including a local style lunch, walking tour of the village and spirit house, cultural dancing performance (sing-sing), paddle a traditional canoe on the fishing lake behind the village and spend time getting to know the local villagers including hearing stories about tribal rituals and beliefs. 4pm depart Korogo for the return journey arriving Wewak 9pm.

Due to the long travel time there is only enough time to visit one village on this day trip option, but more time (4 hours) is spent in the village here compared to the other day trip options which may include more villages but only spend only a short time in each village.

OPTION 2 - Middle Sepik (multiple villages) - in by air and out by road

12 hours duration - depart Wewak 8am return by 8pm. Available Tuesdays only.

Transfer by hotel shuttle to the MAF terminal at Wewak airport at 7am for 8am departure, arriving Timbunke airfield 8.30am (subject to weather). Transfer to a waiting motor canoe and travel upstream 1 hour to Kaminabit, the first of the crocodile cult villages (a side trip to Mindibit village a short distance up the Korosameri tributary may be possible if time allows). Walk through Kaminabit village, meet the locals and see what they are doing, see the men’s spirit house and visit Bowie’s Art Hut which offers a big range of local artifacts sourced direct from local artisans at bargain prices. Continue 1 hour upstream to the twin villages of Palembangi and Kanganaman spending 1 hour in each village to see Yatmul tribe spirit houses, meet initiated men with “crocodile skin”, see a traditional dance performance (“sing-sing”) and have a local style lunch. Continue another 2 hours motor canoe ride upstream to Pagwi township by 4pm and transfer to a waiting car for the 4 hour drive back to Wewak.

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OPTION 3 - Middle Sepik (multiple villages) - in and out by air *Suitable for cruise ship shore trip*

8 hours duration - depart Wewak 8am return by 4pm. Available Monday through Saturday only.

Transfer by hotel shuttle to the MAF terminal at Wewak airport at 7am for 8am departure, arriving Timbunke airfield 8.30am (subject to weather). Transfer to a waiting motor canoe and travel upstream 1 hour to Kaminabit, the first of the crocodile cult villages (a side trip to Mindibit village a short distance up the Korosameri tributary may be possible if time allows). Walk through Kaminabit village, meet the locals and see what they are doing, see the spirit house and visit Bowie's Art Hut which sells a big range of local artifacts purchased direct from villagers at bargain prices. Continue 1 hour upstream to the twin villages of Palembangi and Kanganaman spending 1 hour in each village to see Yatmul tribe spirit houses, meet initiated men with "crocodile skin", see a traditional dance performance ("sing-sing") and have a local style lunch. Return downstream to Timbunke and if time allows continue 30 minutes further downstream to Tambanum village which is situated on a sand bank on a large bend in the river. There are several small spirit houses to see here, and a lot of woven handicrafts like baskets, mats and gable masks plus traditional Yatmul carved ancestor masks and figurines. Return half an hour upstream to Timbunke airfield and be ready at 3pm for your charter flight back to Wewak.

OPTION 4 - Lower Sepik (Kambot Village) - in and out by road

14 hours duration - depart Wewak 7am return by 9pm. Available 7 days a week.

Pick up by private 4WD car at your accommodation at 7am and arrive at Angoram around 10am. Transfer to a waiting motor canoe and travel up the Lower Sepik to the confluence with the Keram River and follow this jungle-sided meandering tributary upstream 90 minutes to Kambot, the largest of the Keram villages. Spend 4 hours here to enjoy a local style lunch, walking tour of the village and village meeting house, cultural dancing performance (sing-sing) and visit the carvers hut where local artisans craft the unique "Kambot story boards" (carved wooden wall hangings depicting village life and legends. 4pm depart Kambot for the return journey with a short stop at Chimondo village downstream to view their nicely decorated village meeting house, arriving Wewak 9pm.

Due to the long travel times there is only enough time to visit one village on this day trip option, but more time (4 hours) is spent in the village here compared to the other day trip options which may include more villages but only spend only a short time in each village.

OPTION 5 - Lower Sepik (multiple villages) - in by air and out by road

12 hours duration - depart Wewak 8am return by 8pm. Available Monday through Saturday only.

Transfer by hotel shuttle to the MAF terminal at Wewak airport at 7am for 8am departure, arriving Timbunke airfield 8.30am (subject to weather). Transfer to a waiting motor canoe and travel downstream 30 minutes to Tambanum, a large village situated on a sand bank on a large bend in the river. There are several small spirit houses to see here, and a lot of woven handicrafts like baskets, mats and gable masks plus traditional Yatmul tribe carved ancestor masks and figurines. Walk through the village and meet the people, buy some bananas from the little market etc. From Tambanum there are no villages for the next one hour of canoe journey downstream due to the swampy terrain and wet-mud riverbanks which are unsuitable for habitation.

Turning right up the Yuat River, a smaller tributary of the Sepik, you'll motor 20 minutes upstream to the pretty village of Kundima, rarely visited by outsiders due to being off the main river. Take a walk through this friendly village and meet the locals who are prolific sago-makers - here you will see many people hard at work on the riverbanks setting up rickety tables for washing the sago pith. Here at Kundima your guide will arrange a typical Sepik lunch of smoked fish and sago with some fruit and coconut juice. Returning to the main Sepik River, further downstream you'll come to the village of Moim, spread out along a high riverbank separating the river from the Moim Lagoon, a cut-off ox-bow lake. If the access channel has enough water level in it your canoe driver will navigate your little boat through the channel into the lagoon so you can take a peek at the expanse of still water. The lagoon has good fish stocks and a few crocodiles which keep the locals busy fishing and hunting. From Moim it's another 20 minutes ride downstream to Angoram township arriving around 4pm where you can take a walk through the town market and buy a few goodies (cooked food, fresh fruita and vegetables, handicrafts) then transfer to a waiting 4WD car for the 3 hour drive to Wewak.

TOUR COST (per person twin-share)

We apologise in advance for the high cost of these one day excursions which in some cases would pay for a week's holiday elsewhere. The high cost is due to the difficult and expensive logistics of arranging private transport from Wewak to the Sepik River some 250 kilometres away by rough road or light aircraft, organising a fuelled-up motor canoe to be waiting at the other end and making advance arrangements with villages. The private day trip package includes all transport and fuel, experienced local guides, life jackets for the canoe, bottled water supplies and local style lunch, wet weather gear, village entry fees, village guides/helpers/demonstrators and dance performers. Tipping is not expected but you are welcome to tip anyone who has made your day special.

Rest assured Ecotourism Melanesia has been offering excursions on the Sepik River for the past 15 years and we know what we are doing. We know the locations, we know the people and we know the logistics.

	Group of 1	Group of 2	Group of 4	Group of 6+
OPTION 1 - Middle Sepik (Korogo Village) - in and out by road	USD 1200	USD 700	USD 400	USD 300
OPTION 2 - Middle Sepik (multiple villages) - in by air and out by road	USD 1500	USD 900	USD 600	USD 500
OPTION 3 - Middle Sepik (multiple villages) - in and out by air	USD 4000	USD 2500	USD 1400	USD 1000
OPTION 4 - Lower Sepik (Kambot Village) - in and out by road	USD 1200	USD 700	USD 400	USD 300
OPTION 5 - Lower Sepik (multiple villages) - in by air and out by road	USD 1500	USD 900	USD 600	USD 500
Hotel accom Wewak (per night room only)	USD 200	USD 100	USD 100	USD 100
Budget accom Wewak (per night room only)	USD 100	USD 50	USD 50	USD 50
Optional airfare supplement POM-WWK-POM	USD 500	USD 500	USD 500	USD 500

Prices subject to change but otherwise valid till end 2018.

INCLUSIONS FOR DAY TRIP:

- private transfers between Wewak and the Sepik River by road and / or air as specified
- road transfers by Landcruiser or mini bus depending on group size. Vehicle may not be air-conditioned.
- motor canoe travel along the Sepik River and/or tributaries as specified in the day trip option selected (includes canoe and engine hire, fuel, skipper, life jackets)
- Sepik River guide and helpers
- activities at the villages as stated in the day trip option selected
- local style lunch and bottled water for the whole day
- toilet tissue, soap, towel, insect killer, umbrellas
- 24-hour tour monitoring and emergency assistance from our Port Moresby office ph +675 7204 6950

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SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR DAY TRIPS:

- Day trips will normally proceed as booked even in wet weather. Rain is part of life along the Sepik River and the people continue their daily lives regardless. We supply umbrellas and canvases for shelter in the canoe. Day trips cannot be rescheduled due to rain unless conditions are actually dangerous for travel on the river.
- Air transfers will also proceed regardless of wet weather unless the rain is so heavy that Timbunke airfield is - or is at risk of becoming - waterlogged or the rain is accompanied by strong winds and/or poor visibility unsuitable for flying. This will be decided by the pilot on the travel day. If the weather is unsuitable for flying, a different trip option may be substituted (ie travel by road) or the trip may be cancelled with full refund.

