



November 2014

I'm a UK based professional photographer and asked Aaron at Ecotourism Melanesia to organise a two week trip around Papua New Guinea for me in October 2014.

My brief to Aaron was to organise a trip to a number of different places over a period of about 2 weeks so I could photograph a variety of different tribes wearing Sing Sing and traditional PNG costumes. I had a rough idea of what I wanted to shoot but pretty much left it up to Aaron to decide exactly where I should go.

Aaron initially sent a rough itinerary by e-mail, then after I gave him the go ahead a detailed itinerary with costings. He organised all the logistics of getting from A-B, together with guides, accommodation and of course the all important Sing Sing groups. He has lots of local contacts around Papua New Guinea who organised a fantastic array of locals wearing Sing Sing costumes for me to photograph. Aaron has experience of working with photographers which helped considerably when planning.

I was very impressed with the organisation and the guides in particular were excellent, they were all extremely pleasant and very helpful, enabling me to fully concentrate on my photography. As I moved to a different place a new guide took over who had local knowledge and in all cases were able to communicate with the people I was photographing if they didn't speak English, although many of them did. While travelling around I noticed that if there was mobile communication all the guides kept in daily contact with Ecotourism in Port Moresby with an update of how things were going. Transport was reasonably complex, involving smallish planes, very small planes landing on grass strips, 4x4 hire, taxi, canoe and walking, however everything went pretty much like clockwork.

There were a few minor hiccups along the way, nothing to write home about though and in all cases the guides did all they could to help resolve any problems.

Stuart Redler