



# Ecotourism Melanesia

Explore Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific

## EM52 - GOROKA WEEKENDER / GOROKA EXTENSION

2 or 3 nights Goroka

SOFT ADVENTURE PACKAGE FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS

### INTRODUCTION



This two night three day itinerary can easily be extended to three nights to enable same day flight connections. The trip covers Goroka town itself (markets, coffee factory, museum) and the main out-of-town attractions including Asaro Mud Men, the Daulo Pass Moss Forest, Mt Gahavisuka Forest Park and a visit to a typical rural village. Our experienced Goroka-based guide will look after you for the whole weekend including airport assistance.

The package includes 3 star accommodation at either the Bird of Paradise Hotel or Pacific Gardens Hotel and comes with daily breakfast and one lunch.

This is not a trekking package but there is some walking involved.

### PACKAGE COST: all prices per person twin share

	Group of 1	Group of 2*	Group of 4*	Group of 6+ *
Ground package 2 nights 3 days	USD 3175	USD 1940	USD 1480	USD 1300
Extra night Goroka with breakfast	USD 220	USD 120	USD 120	USD 120
Single room supplement (2 nts)		USD 200	USD 200	USD 200
Airfare supplement** POM-GKA-POM	USD 400	USD 400	USD 400	USD 400

\* Per person twin share

\*\* Optional surcharge. You can purchase your air tickets from any travel agent or any travel website online at best price, cash in your frequent flyer points for award flights, or pay our flat rate internal air supplement (includes our service fee) and we will purchase tickets on your behalf direct from the airline. Prices subject to change but otherwise valid till end 2022.

### PACKAGE INCLUSIONS

- Port Moresby -airport meet and greet and assist
- Goroka - 2 nights accommodation at Bird of Paradise Hotel (3.0 star “standard” double or twin room) or Pacific Gardens Hotel (3 star double or twin room) with full breakfast
- Goroka - Day 1 town tour
- Goroka - Day 2 villages tour, with lunch
- Goroka - Day 3 forest park tour

- Throughout the tour we provide:
  - daily guide and assistant guide or driver i.e. 2 staff to accompany you or your group at all times
  - all fees and gratuities for local villagers, demonstrators and helpers
  - all airport/hotel transfers
  - road travel by late model mini bus or four wheel drive vehicle with bottled water on board
  - daily reconfirmation of flights and arrangements coordinated by our Port Moresby office
  - 24 hour assistance from our Port Moresby office phone (675) 3400710, 7204 6950 or (61) 422597435

### EXCLUSIONS

- airfares (internal fares are quoted as an additional supplement)
- dinners
- lunches unless stated as included
- bar drinks and bottled water at the hotel
- tips (not expected, and only appropriate for exceptional service)
- souvenirs and items of a personal nature
- airline excess baggage charges (the free allowance on Air Niugini is 20 kg + 5 kg)
- Personal items. Bring your own personal medications and first aid kit, personal hygiene requirements, brimmed hat or cap, comfortable walking shoes and a pair of sandals, insect repellent, sunscreen, compact umbrella. Please note that pressurised aerosol spray cans may not be permitted on some domestic flights in PNG - even in checked baggage - so bring pump-action sprays or roll-ons.

### ITINERARY

#### DAY 1



#### **PORT MORESBY / GOROKA (Goroka sightseeing)**

On arrival at Port Moresby airport you will be met by staff from Ecotourism Melanesia who will assist you to check in for your connecting flight to Goroka.

**08:55 Air Niugini flight PX160 departs Port Moresby for Goroka (aircraft: Dash 8-Q400 turboprop with 70 seats)**

09:50 You will be met on arrival in Goroka by our local guide - look for somebody with an Ecotourism Melanesia sign or uniform. The guide will drive you 5 minutes to your hotel, assist you to check in and then leave you to freshen up.

11:00 Commence a sightseeing tour of Goroka town. To get your bearings, first drive up to the Mt Kiss lookout which has views of the town and adjacent Asaro Valley - the guide will point out some of the places you'll be visiting.

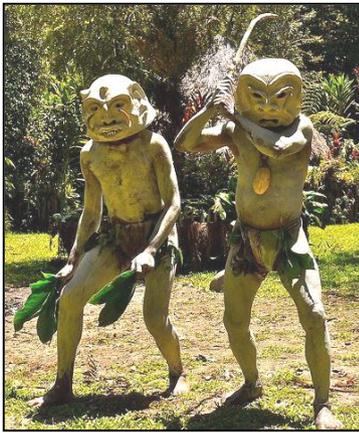
Other stops will include (not necessarily in this order): the artifacts and handicrafts market (woven bilum bags are the best buy), the fresh produce market (vegetables, pigs, chickens - hold your nose), the JK McCarthy Museum of Highlands Culture (if open) the Goroka Coffee Factory.

At a convenient time, you can stop off at the hotel for lunch (not included)

*NB if you are arriving on an afternoon flight there will not be enough time for all the Day 1 activities so we suggest you extend your stay to 3 nights so that some of the Day 1 activities can be undertaken on Day 3.*

Overnight 3 star accom, Goroka - includes hot breakfast

## DAY 2



### GOROKA (full day villages tour)

07:00 Breakfast at your accommodation

08:00 Drive 30 minutes out of town to the Asaro Valley, home of the famed Asaro mud men. Here you will be treated to a private mud men display - a little corny but a lot of fun and great photography. The Asaro people have long had a tradition of crafting fierce looking clay helmets worn during tribal fights in the old days to frighten the enemy. The helmets are also worn for traditional dancing and drama performances demonstrating how their ancestors confronted enemy tribes wearing their scary mud helmets, their bodies smeared with grey mud, looking like evil ghosts. After the dance (or "prance") you'll be shown how the clay helmets are made, and you'll have an opportunity to try one on yourself. A traditional style lunch is served at the nearby Halusilaro Cultural Centre - chicken and vegetables stuffed into hollow bamboo stalks and roasted in the fire. From Asaro, drive 30 minutes to another more remote village, Kenadi, where the people live in round huts made of bush materials.

The village is a typical rural highlands community with smoky cooking fires and pigs wandering around.

At the village you will walk by a number of homes to see locals engaged in different daily chores and activities.

On the land around the village you'll see people gardening (the highlands climate is perfect) and tending their coffee crops.

Organic coffee grown on smallholder blocks is the major local cash crop.

Meet some villagers in costume for photos.

From Kenadi, continue driving up to the Daulo Pass, a high altitude biodiversity hotspot where the highway winds through swirling mists past giant tree ferns and trickling waterfalls.

Near the peak of the pass, you will leave your vehicle at the road side and some locals will lead you on a 30 minute walk through the moss forest, often enveloped in fog and dripping with condensation.

The forest is populated by flowering trees and tree ferns which form a substrate for the growth of a wide variety of saprophytic native orchids, green mosses and colourful fungi, lichens, liverworts and leafy epiphytes.

Late afternoon is also the time of day when the raucous Raggiana bird of paradise is most active: the bird is relatively easy to spot as it flutters from tree to tree emitting a loud cackle. There are known nesting spots along the forest paths. Wild animals including birds of paradise are plentiful in PNG and are not protected by law but locals have preserved some areas of forest.

Overnight 3 star accom, Goroka - includes hot breakfast

*(NB Due to weather and other considerations today's itinerary may be adjusted to suit the local conditions).*



### DAY 3



### GOROKA (Mt Gahavisuka Forest Park trip)

07:00 Breakfast

07:30 Depart from the hotel and drive 45 minutes drive to the north east of Goroka town to Mt Gahavisuka Forest Park, a beautiful 80 hectare area of protected forest with walking trails, some curated botanical gardens and a scenic lookout at the summit.

The area offers something for everybody. If you are a fit hiker you can take the 2 hour steep walk to the summit which has expansive views of Goroka and the Asaro Valley, and one hour to descend.

If you are a less serious walker you can enjoy some of the undulating paths around the base of the mountain, passing by pretty streams and waterfalls and a huge variety of flowering and non-flowering plants.

If you are a birder you can settle quietly onto a rock or log in among the vegetation and study the tree birds flitting about in the branches above (several species of bird of paradise inhabit the park) and shy ground birds including the giant cassowary poking around in the leaf litter underneath. Bring an umbrella because there is bound to be a shower or two during the day - that's why everything is so green.

Guides are available to accompany you so you don't get lost.

(NB An earlier start is available if you are a serious birder and want to catch the sunrise chorus at the park.)

12:00 Return to hotel for lunch (not included)

14:30 Transfer to Goroka airport and check in for your flight

**16:40 Air Niugini flight PX165 departs Goroka for Port Moresby**

17:30 Arrive Port Moresby

TOUR ENDS

[OR overnight extra night in Goroka and fly out tomorrow \(Day 4\)](#)