



# Ecotourism Melanesia

Discover Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

## EM7 EASY BIRDING TRIP WITH 3 STOPS FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS AND SMALL GROUPS 6 nights Tabubil, Mt Hagen, Port Moresby

*This hassle-free hotel-based tour is available year-round and offers easily accessible bird watching locations that do not require long road trips, jungle expeditions, swamp-stomping or sleeping in bush camps. Birding bliss without getting blisters and wet feet. Birding excursions include full catering, good quality vehicles and trained nature guides.*

### PACKAGE COST\*: (per person, twin share, does not include airfares)

	Group of 1	Group of 2	Group of 3	Group of 4	Group of 5-6	Group of 7-8	Group of 9-10
6 nights core package	PGK 24,857	PGK 17,714	PGK 13,905**	PGK 10,929**	PGK 10,143**	PGK 8,429**	PGK 7,556**
Extra night at any stop with extra full day birding trip	PGK 2500	PGK 1850	PGK 1450	PGK 1100	PGK 1000	PGK 900	PGK 800

\*rates are quoted in our local currency PNG Kina (PGK). To calculate quotes in other currencies, use the exchange rates shown on our website home page [www.em.com.pg](http://www.em.com.pg)

\*\*based on twin share plus one single for odd-numbered groups

PACKAGE ADD-ONS (per person)	
Single supplement 6 nights	PGK 2100
Single supplement extra night	PGK 350
Hotel meal package 6 nights***	PGK 700
Hotel meal package extra night (dinner only)	PGK 75
Extra night Port Moresby (best available 3 or 4 star accommodation at time of booking) - room only	PGK 250 pp twin share PGK 450 pp single share

\*\*\*6 nights meal package includes 1 arrival breakfast, 4 lunches and 6 dinners marked as pay-as-you-go (PAYG) in the itinerary. Meal package lunch includes two courses (soup and mains or mains and dessert) with one beer or two soft drinks. Dinner includes 3 courses (soup or starter, mains and dessert) with one beer or one glass of wine or two soft drinks. Any food or drinks over and above these inclusions are to be settled by the consumer directly with the hotel. Spirits or mixed drinks are not included in the meal package. Meals and drinks are included in the package on a use-it-or-lose-it basis - there is no refund for meals, parts of meals, or drinks not consumed.

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**PACKAGE INCLUSIONS (6 nights core package):**

- meet and greet at Port Moresby airport, check-in assistance for Tabubil flight.
- information kit with local maps and tourist information
- arrival gift and souvenir PNG birding polo shirt
- all meet/greet/transfers at provincial airports
- 2 nights best available accommodation at the Hotel Cloudlands (3 star) in Tabubil, room only (or best available alternative)
- 2 nights premier room accommodation at the Highlander Hotel in Mt Hagen (3.5 star), room only (or best available alternative)
- 2 nights premier room accommodation at the Gateway Hotel in Port Moresby (4 star), room only (or best available alternative)
- daily birding excursions and touring as specified in itinerary, with trained nature guide assisted by driver and assistant guides as required, driving a late-model vehicle appropriate to the terrain. Catering for morning excursions includes packed breakfast, bottled water and fruit. Catering for full day excursions includes packed breakfast and packed or catered lunch as stated in itinerary plus bottled water, fresh fruit. Catering for afternoon excursions includes bottled water, fruit, tea/coffee flask and cookies, muffins or sandwiches and a bottle of wine if you are good ☺. A first aid kit and some wet weather gear is carried in the tour vehicle (rain ponchos, umbrellas, tarpaulins) but bring your own binoculars and bird books.
- Village tour and sing-sing performance at Mt Hagen
- Daily tour monitoring and reconfirmations from our Port Moresby office
- 24-hour telephone help (ph 686 8917)

**EXCLUSIONS:**

international airfares

tips (not essential, but appreciated for exceptional service)

souvenirs and items of a personal nature

bar drinks and between-meal snacks

any meals not specified as being included

domestic flights: Day 1 morning flight Port Moresby to Tabubil (PX or CG)

Day 3 morning flight Tabubil to Mt Hagen (CG)

Day 5 morning flight Mt Hagen to Port Moresby (PX)

## GENERIC ITINERARY:

### DAY 1

#### PORT MORESBY / TABUBIL

If you are arriving on an early morning international flight, Ecotourism Melanesia staff will meet you on arrival and take you for breakfast at the Airways Hotel (pay-as-you-go) then assist you to check in for your morning flight to Tabubil (Air Niugini or Airlines PNG). If you have already arrived in Port Moresby the day before, our staff will arrange to meet you at your hotel and transfer you to the airport to check in.

On arrival at Tabubil airport you will be met at the small terminal by our local birding guide (details supplied upon confirmation of your tour) and transferred to the Hotel Cloudlands in time for lunch (pay-as-you-go or PAYG).

1300 Afternoon birding around Tabubil until sundown, includes afternoon tea.

*Hotel Cloudlands is a 2.5 star hotel located within Tabubil township, adjacent to the bowls club and recreation centre. Rooms are both cooled and heated to accommodate the daily fluctuations in temperature. The restaurant serves a variety of western, Asian and PNG-style cuisine.*

*Tabubil is a neat and tidy mining town where everything runs like clockwork due to the pervasive influence of Ok Tedi Mining Limited (OTML), the company that employs most of the wage earners in the town and owns most of the houses and office buildings. The company runs the airport, maintains the roads and coordinates town services including electricity, water and garbage collection. Without OTML, Tabubil would be a ghost town.*

*The open cut mine itself is located on Mt Fubilan about an hour's drive (steep climb) to the north west of Tabubil, at such a high altitude of 6600 metres that it is usually covered in cloud and cannot be seen from the town.*

*Although the copper mine has a limited life span, OTML is very involved in helping local people to develop alternative economic activities towards the goal of sustaining the community after the closure of the mine. Apart from the obvious huge open pit created by the decapping of Mt Fubilan, the rest of the Star Mountains area is largely virgin forest and populations of native birds thrive in the area, making bird watching an other nature-based activities ideal attractions for tourists. Local nature guides have been assisted by OTML to receive training in bird guiding and the best birding spots have been surveyed.*

*Species in the high altitude Star Mountains differ markedly from the lowland and riverine species observed in the Ok Tedi River valley between Tabubil and Kiunga. If you are thinking of adding an extra night or two to this package, Tabubil would be an ideal place to do so as this would enable a full exploration of both upper and lower altitude habitats.*

*[If you add 2 extra nights to the Tabubil stop, for example, you could take a full day birding along the Tabubil-Kiunga road, overnight at Kiunga Guest House (1<sup>st</sup> extra night) and bird your way*

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*back to Tabubil the next day, overnight Hotel Cloudlands (2<sup>nd</sup> extra night) and pick up the core package itinerary next day with onward flight to Mt Hagen. This would all be covered by the standard charge for "extra night at any stop" x 2 nights.]*

*Tabubil is a high rainfall area so be prepared for one or more of your birding excursions to be modified or abandoned.*

*Bird list for Tabubil (Star Mountains and Ok Tedi River Valley): Intermediate Egret, Long-tailed Buzzard, Brahminy Kite, Whistling Kite, Bat Hawk, Great Cuckoo Dove, Victoria's Crowned Pigeon, Blue Eyed Cockatoo, Southern Cassowary, Black Billed Brush Turkey, Common Scrub Fowl, Darter, Little Black Cormorant, Black Bittern, Forest Bittern, Rufous Night Heron, Striated Heron, Cattle Egret, Little Egret, Great Billed Heron, Green Pygmy Goose, Wandering Whistling Duck, Brown Goshawk, Coloured Sparrow Hawk, Grey Heated Goshawk, Grey Goshawk, Black Winged Kite, Australian Kestrel, Crested Hawk, Long tailed Buzzard, Doria's Hawk, Little Eagle, Gurney's Eagle, White Billed Sea Eagle, New Guinea Harpy Eagle, Oriental Hobby, Red Necked Rail, Bare Eyed Rail, New Guinea Flightless Rail, Bush hen, Common Sandpiper, Common Tern, New Guinea Bronzewing, Thick Billed Ground Pigeon, Emerald Ground Dove, Stephan's Ground Dove, Bar shouldered Dove, Southern Crowned Pigeon, Pheasant Pigeon, Cinnamon Ground Dove, White Billed Ground Dove, Great Cuckoo Dove, Black Billed Cuckoo Dove, Brown Cuckoo Dove, Beautiful Fruit Dove, Ornate Fruit Dove, Wompoo Fruit Dove, Pink-spotted Fruit Dove, Orange Bellied Fruit Dove, Superb Fruit Dove, Dwarf Fruit Dove, Zoe Imperial Pigeon, Purple Tailed Imperial Pigeon, Papua Mountain Pigeon, Collard Imperial Pigeon, White Throated Pigeon, Red Flanked Lorikeet, Western Black Capped Lory, Dusky Lory, Rainbow Lorikeet, Papuan King Parrot, Eclectus Parrot, Greater Streaked Lorry, Red Cheeked Parrot, Vulturine Parrot, Sulphur crested cockatoo, Palm Cockatoo, Yellow Capped Pygmy Parrot, Large Fig Parrot, Double Eyed Fig Parrot, White caned Bronze Cuckoo, Malay Bronzed Cuckoo, Chestnut Breasted Cuckoo, Brush Cuckoo, Long Billed Cuckoo, Dwarf Koel, Common Koel, Oriental Cuckoo, White Crown Koel, Channel Billed Cuckoo, Lesser Black Coucal, Greater Black Coucal, Little Paradise Kingfisher, Common Paradise Kingfisher.*

Overnight Hotel Cloudlands, Tabubil (room only - pay as you go for meals and drinks, cash or card)

**DAY 2:**

**TABUBIL**

0400 Depart for an early morning birding excursion around Tabubil with packed breakfast.

0900 Return to hotel for rest. It often rains at this time of the day and is a good time to lie low.

1300 After lunch (PAYG), a full afternoon birding excursion further afield into the Star Mountains (highland species) OR Ok Tedi River Valley (lowland species).

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Overnight Hotel Cloudlands, Tabubil (room only - pay as you go for meals and drinks, cash or card)

**DAY 3:**

**TABUBIL / MT HAGEN**

0400 Depart for an early morning birding excursion around Tabubil with packed breakfast, then transfer to the airport in time for your late morning flight from Tabubil to Mt Hagen (exact flight times vary with the day of the week). Our local guide will meet you on arrival in Mt Hagen and transfer you to the Highlander Hotel in time for lunch (PAYG).

1300 Afternoon birding excursion with local bird guide around Mt Hagen.

*Bird list for Mt Hagen area (still being compiled):*

*Long-tailed Buzzard, Brahminy Kite, Whistling Kite, Papuan Harrier, Wattled Bush Turkey, Pheasant Pigeon (Baiyer River), Victoria's Crowned Pigeon (Baiyer River), Dusky Lony, Goldie's Lorikeet (Baiyer River)*

Overnight Highlander Hotel, Mt Hagen (room only - pay as you go for meals and drinks, cash or card)

**DAY 4:**

**MT HAGEN**

0400 Depart on a full day birding excursion with packed breakfast. Our local bird guide will take you to one or more birding spots around Kumul Lodge, Magic Mountain, Baiyer River, Rondon Ridge or other locations depending on species of interest to you.

Mid-morning, transfer to a local village for a village tour, colourful sing-sing performance and traditional style lunch, then resume birding in the afternoon until sundown.

Overnight Highlander Hotel, Mt Hagen (room only - pay as you go for meals and drinks, cash or card)

**DAY 5:**

**MT HAGEN / PORT MORESBY**

0400 Early morning birding excursion around Mt Hagen with packed breakfast, then transfer to Mt Hagen airport to check in for your morning flight from Mt Hagen to Port Moresby.

Ecotourism Melanesia staff will meet you on arrival and assist you to check in at the Gateway Hotel in time for lunch (PAYG).

1300 Afternoon birding trip to Laloki River and Pacific Adventist University campus area OR botanical gardens bird aviary (closes at 1630).

*Bird list for Port Moresby area (still being compiled):*

*Intermediate Egret, Long-tailed Buzzard, Brahminy Kite, Whistling Kite, Papuan Harrier, Variable Goshawk, New Guinea Eagle, Yellow Legged Bush Turkey (Riverine areas), Red Necked Crane (riverine areas), Bare Eyed Rail, Buff Banded Rail, Purple Swamp hen, Comb Crested Jacana, Beach Stone Curlew, Little Ringed Plover, Swinhoe's Snipe, Sandpiper group, Whiskered Tern, Common Tern, Bridled Tern, Brown Noddy, Stephen's Dove*

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*(riverine areas), Emerald Dove (riverine areas), New Guinea Bronzewing (riverine areas), Cinnamon Ground Dove (riverine areas), Thick Billed Ground Dove (riverine areas), Orange Bellied Fruit Dove, Buff Faced Pygmy Parrot, Large Fig Parrot (upper riverine areas)*

Overnight Gateway Hotel, Port Moresby (room only - pay as you go for meals and drinks, cash or card)

**DAY 6:**

**PORT MORESBY (VARIARATA)**

0400 Depart on a full day birding excursion with local bird guide to Variarata National Park. Includes packed breakfast and picnic lunch.

*Variarata National Park is located on the Sogeri Plateau above Port Moresby. A 45 minute drive up the winding main road from the city brings you to the turnoff to the national park which is another 30 minutes along sealed feeder road. The park and the surrounding country is set on a region of uplifted igneous intrusive rock complexes which rises to an elevation of 800-1000m above sea-level, and is like a natural border marking where the dry savannah scrublands of coastal Port Moresby end, and the mid-montane forests and grasslands of the Sogeri plateau begin. Birdlife at Variarata is prolific. There is a mixture of upland as well as lowland species. There are side tracks that lead to particular spots where certain types of birds can be observed. The splendid Raggiana Birds of Paradise can be observed performing their conspicuous courtship dance from one of these side tracks.*

***Bird list for Variarata (still being compiled):***

*Raggiana bird of paradise, 4 to 5 species of fairy-wrens, 4 to 5 species of monarchs, the gigantic blue-winged kookaburra, and many other species.*

Overnight Gateway Hotel, Port Moresby (room only - pay as you go for meals and drinks, cash or card)

**DAY 7:**

**PORT MORESBY / FLY OUT**

0400 Half day birding excursion with local bird guide to Goldie River or Brown River. Includes packed breakfast and picnic lunch with optional stops at the Bomana War Cemetery, Schwimmer Drome war relics display and the botanical gardens bird aviary if time allows before your flight.

Return to the city in time to check in for your international flight.

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