



Ecotourism Melanesia

Discover Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

EM31 - MAINLAND NEW GUINEA BIRDWATCHING PACKAGE FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS

14 or 21 days ex-Port Moresby (Kiunga, Ekame Wildlife Lodge, Tabubil, Mt Hagen, Minj (14 days)

+ Goroka, Lae, Kamiali Wildlife Management Area (21 days)

PACKAGE COST:

Group size	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people
Price per person 21 days	USD 9,686	USD 7,744	USD 5,924	USD 5,398
Price per person 14 days*	USD 7,836	USD 5,339	USD 4,444	USD 3,931

*Fly from Goroka to Port Moresby on Day 13 or 14 to connect with international flight on Day 14.

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS (21 days):

- meet and greet at Port Moresby airport
- half-day tour of Port Moresby if time allows OR day trip to Varirata National Park if time allows
- two nights premier room accommodation at the Gateway Hotel in Port Moresby (or equivalent), including breakfast only
- economy class domestic airfares from Port Moresby to Kiunga, Tabubil to Mt Hagen and Lae to Port Moresby
- three nights camp-style accommodation and camp-style meals at Ekame Wildlife Lodge, including water transfers
- services of a local guide at each destination throughout the tour
- two nights motel-style accommodation and set-menu meals at Kiunga Guest House
- one and a half days of bird watching around Kiunga including vehicle and driver/guide
- full day road transfer and birding between Kiunga and Tabubil
- one full day of bird watching /sightseeing around Tabubil including vehicle and driver/guide
- two nights motel-style accommodation and breakfast only at Hotel Cloudlands, Tabubil
- two nights roundhouse accommodation at Haus Poroman Lodge, Mt Hagen including set-menu meals
- visit to orchid garden and village near Haus Poroman Lodge
- one full day trip to Baiyer River Sanctuary or alternative bird watching location (or cultural village tour if preferred), ex-Mt Hagen, including picnic lunch or traditional style lunch.
- road transfer from Haus Poroman Lodge to Minj Orchid Lodge
- two nights hostel-style accommodation at Minj Orchid Lodge, including set-menu meals
- one and a half days birding ex-Minj Orchid Lodge (by vehicle or on foot) with guide
- road transfer from Minj to Goroka
- two nights premier room accommodation at the Bird of Paradise Hotel, Goroka, including cooked breakfast
- road transfers to and from Akameku village
- overnight hike along the Sir Pita Lus Track including guide, camp rations, basic camping equipment, sleeping bags, and sufficient porters to carry same (OR one night additional accommodation at the Bird of Paradise Hotel, with 2 x half-day vehicle excursions to villages near Goroka where alternative bird watching may be available)
- road transfer from Goroka to Lae
- visit to The Rainforest Habitat in Lae
- one night premier room accommodation and breakfast at the Melanesian Hotel, Lae

ECOTOURISM MELANESIA LTD

Section 69 Lot 12, Govea Street • Gordons, Port Moresby • Papua New Guinea
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- small boat transfer from Lae to Kamiali and return
- three nights hostel-style accommodation at Kamiali Guest House, including set-menu meals
- two and a half days birding and wildlife observation activities of your choice in the Kamiali Wildlife Management Area, (by boat or on foot)
- pick-up from Lae wharf (ex-Kamiali boat) and transfer to Lae airport
- Port Moresby airport transfer on departure
- PNG country map
- Ecotourism Melanesia souvenir birding polo shirt

EXCLUSIONS:

international airfares

bottled water (BYO or ask village hosts to boil water for you)

tips (not essential, but appreciated for exceptional service)

souvenirs and items of a personal nature

bar drinks and between-meal snacks

lunches on some travelling days (purchase snacks from shops en route)

lunches and dinners at hotels except where specified

other meals not stated as being included

ITINERARY:

Day 1

PORT MORESBY

Arrive Port Moresby. Ecotourism Melanesia staff will meet you on arrival and transfer you to your hotel, followed by a half-day tour of Port Moresby including national museum and botanical gardens as time allows. The botanical gardens has an aviary with a small number of caged species including the Raggiana bird of paradise, hornbill, sulfur-crested cockatoo, cassowary and Victoria's crowned pigeon. OR If you are arriving on the early morning flight from Singapore, a day trip to Varirata National Park can be arranged for today. Overnight hotel (includes breakfast).

Day 2

PORT MORESBY / KIUNGA / EKAME

Morning flight from Port Moresby to Kiunga, where the owner of Ekame Wildlife Lodge Samuel Kepuknai will meet you and transfer you to the Kiunga town wharf (Fly River) to travel by motorised dinghy up the Fly and Elevara Rivers to Ekame Wildlife Lodge. Ekame Wildlife Lodge is located some 50 kilometres east of Kiunga and the river journey takes two hours.

The Lodge was specially built to accommodate nature lovers and is made of bush materials in local style with comfortable bedding and out-back bathroom. Facilities are very basic (no electricity), but you will not have time to notice when there is so much wildlife to be seen. However it does rain frequently here so bring a novel to read during the afternoon downpours.

The Lodge is located in a biodiversity hotspot where dozens of plant, bird and other animal species can be viewed during each foray into surrounding habitats including the river, tundra, savannah, swamp and rainforest.

At Ekame there are established bird watching trails passing by known species of interest, and also raised viewing platforms where you can sit tight and observe ground birds. You can also cruise up and down the nearby Ketu River in a canoe or boat and see riverbank life including aquatic birds and larger animals like wallabies and cassowaries that come down to drink. A bird list for Ekame is

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available.

Nocturnal wildlife viewing will be possible if weather permits - bring your own torch/flashlight and batteries. Overnight Ekame Wildlife Lodge (includes camp-style meals).

- Day 3** **EKAME**
Birding at Ekame Wildlife Lodge
- Day 4** **EKAME**
Birding at Ekame Wildlife Lodge
- Day 5** **EKAME / KIUNGA**
Morning boat transfer from Ekame to Kiunga. Lunch at Kiunga Guest House followed by afternoon birding in the Kiunga area, including the well known KM17 site. Overnight Kiunga Guest House (includes meals).
- Day 6** **KIUNGA**
Birding forays around Kiunga, with guide. Overnight Kiunga Guest House
- Day 7** **KIUNGA / TABUBIL**
After early morning birding (or a sleep-in and late breakfast!) transfer by road with driver / guide to Tabubil, stopping en route at birding sites of interest making the usual three hour drive into a full day excursion. Overnight Hotel Cloudlands, Tabubil (includes breakfast only).
- Day 8** **TABUBIL**
Birding forays around Tabubil, with guide. Overnight Hotel Cloudlands, Tabubil
- Day 9** **TABUBIL / MT HAGEN**
Morning flight from Tabubil to Mt Hagen. Transfer to Haus Poroman Lodge. Explore spectacular orchid gardens and visit nearby village. Overnight Haus Poroman Lodge (includes meals).
- Day 10** **MT HAGEN**
Day trip to Baiyer River Sanctuary or alternative wildlife protected area for guided birdwatching, OR Highlands village cultural experience. Overnight Haus Poroman Lodge
- Day 11** **MT HAGEN / MINJ**
Morning road transfer from Mt Hagen to Minj (2 hours). Just out of town is the "Minj Orchid Lodge", located on a hilltop overlooking the Tengen River, and so named because of the many species of tropical orchids cultivated in the surrounding gardens. Although orchids grow naturally all over PNG, including many endemic species, they are often difficult to identify in the wild as they have long non-flowering periods and their green vines go unnoticed in the verdant jungle. Many species only flower fleetingly and to enjoy the brilliant bursts of colour and exquisite structure of the flowers it is necessary to plant many vines so that there will always be a few in flower, as you will find at Minj Orchid Lodge. Spend the afternoon enjoying the gardens with orchid displays and wide range of other flora - the gardens are, of course, frequented by avifauna as well. Overnight Minj Orchid Lodge (includes meals).
- Day 12** **MINJ**
Full day birding trip to seek out the bird life of the highlands forest of the nearby Kubor Range. This will not involve extensive hiking but rather short walks into different habitats with your guides. Nesting sites of bird of paradise

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species and possibly bower birds will be observed. Return to the Lodge for lunch or carry a packed lunch. Overnight Minj Orchid Lodge.

Day 13

MINJ / GOROKA

Road transfer from Minj to Goroka (6 hours) via the highlands highway, through the scenic Chimbu province. On arrival, check in at the Bird of Paradise Hotel (or alternative). If time allows our local guide will take you on a short tour of Goroka town including the coffee factory, fresh food market and the cultural museum. Overnight Bird of Paradise Hotel (includes breakfast only).

[If you are taking the 14 days version of this tour, you will either overnight in Goroka and fly to Port Moresby on Day 14 to connect with your Singapore flight, or you will take today's 1730 flight from Goroka to Port Moresby for overnight to catch a morning flight to Australia on Day 14].

Day 14

GOROKA

Today you will commence an overnight birding hike in untouched forest along the Sir Pita Lus Walking Track. This track runs northerly from Goroka to Brahman in the Madang Province (normally a 4 day hike). You will be transferred by road (40 minutes) to the village of Akameku where the Track begins, and hike for approximately 6 hours at an easy pace to the first village located along the Track. Along the way, make as many stops as you wish to view forest birds. You will be accompanied by two local guides who will carry basic supplies to supplement food provided by local villagers. You will sleep in a village hut provided by a host family in the village. (If you are unable to undertake this overnight hike, an alternative bird watching program will be provided for you closer to Goroka on a day excursion basis, with another overnight at the hotel). Overnight in forest village.

Day 15

GOROKA

Return from overnight birding hike. Overnight Bird of Paradise Hotel.

Day 16

GOROKA / LAE

Road transfer from Goroka to Lae. Check in at the Melanesian Hotel (or alternative) in time for lunch (not included). In the afternoon, a local guide from Lae will take you to visit to "The Rainforest Habitat", a large walk-through aviary in a lush tropical garden setting located at the local university campus, which houses the largest collection of captive birds of paradise in the world as well as a variety of native animals including Morobe tree kangaroos. Overnight Melanesian Hotel (includes breakfast only).

Day 17

LAE / KAMIALI

Your local guide will accompany you down to the Lae wharf where you will board a speed boat for the journey to Kamiali. The boat ride takes about 3 hours and stops may be made at the pretty little coastal township of Salamaua and various villages along the way. On arrival at Kamiali, check in at Kamiali Guest House and have lunch.

The Kamiali Wildlife Management Area is a 47,000 hectare expanse of coastal, tidal wetlands and rainforest habitats in the Salamaua district 70km south of Lae. The WMA and associated guest house are managed by the local community with the assistance of the Village Development Trust, a non-government organisation.

In the afternoon, pay a visit to Lababia Island a short distance offshore, to see frigate bird nesting sites. Overnight Kamiali Guest House (includes meals).

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Day 18	KAMIALI Today, continue exploring the bird life of the Kamiali Wildlife Management Area. A range of habitats are found here: freshwater river, tidal mud flats, beach, swamp, offshore islands, mangroves and alluvial rainforest. All with their own endemic species. Local guides will accompany you and show you nesting and display sites. Overnight Kamiali Guest House.
Day 19	KAMIALI Birding at Kamiali
Day 20	KAMIALI / LAE / PORT MORESBY Morning speed boat transfer from Kamiali back to Lae. On arrival at Lae wharf you will be met and transferred to Lae airport in time for the late afternoon flight to Port Moresby. Overnight hotel, Port Moresby (includes breakfast only).
Day 21	PORT MORESBY Fly out of Papua New Guinea.

TRIP NOTES:

1. The general terms and conditions applicable to this tour are those specified on your invoice and on the Booking Information page of our website.
2. Road transfers along major highways (eg Goroka to Lae) may be provided by dedicated vehicle with driver or by public bus accompanied by a guide, at our discretion. Likewise water transfers between Lae and Kamiali may be provided by dedicated boat or a seat on a boat providing public transport.
3. Destinations are subject to change in response to local conditions. Where travel to a specified destination is contraindicated by local conditions, travel to an alternative destination of similar value with similar activities will be provided where possible, but claims for partial refunds based on quality of substitute activities will not be entertained.
4. The choice of activities provided on Day 10 (ie bird watching trip or village cultural tour) requires that all members of the tour party (if more than one pax) choose that same activity.
5. The alternative activity at Goroka for clients who cannot undertake the overnight hike along the Sir Pita Lus Track, is only offered where all members of the group (if more than one pax) agree to forfeit the overnight hike: ie the group cannot be split between the two activities.

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