



# Ecotourism Melanesia

Discover Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

## EM32 - MAINLAND NEW GUINEA CULTURE PACKAGE FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS

14 or 21 days ex-Port Moresby

Lake Kutubu, Mt Hagen, Middle Sepik (14 days) + Goroka, Tufi (21 days)

### PACKAGE COST:

Group size	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people
Price per person 21 days	USD 9,118	USD 7,189	USD 6,409	USD 5,993
Price per person 14 days	USD 6,845	USD 5,035	USD 4,497	USD 4,149

### PACKAGE INCLUSIONS:

- meet and greet at Port Moresby airport
- half-day tour of Port Moresby if time allows
- two nights premier room accommodation at the Gateway Hotel in Port Moresby (or alternative), including cooked breakfast
- economy class domestic flights Port Moresby - Moro - Mt Hagen - Wewak - Goroka - Port Moresby - Tufi - Port Moresby
- services of a local guide at each destination throughout the tour
- three nights hostel-style accommodation and meals at Tubo Lodge, Lake Kutubu, including return road and water transfers from Moro airfield
- daily excursions around Lake Kutubu by motorboat
- cultural demonstrations at Lake Kutubu
- two nights bungalow accommodation, meals and cultural activities at Magic Mountain Hideaway, Paiya Village, Mt Hagen, including transfers
- road or air transfer from Wewak airport to Sepik River (Pagwi) and return to Wewak
- three nights Middle Sepik River trip including guides, motorised canoe, fuel, food, accommodation in villages or tents
- one night standard accommodation at Windjammer Beach Hotel, Wewak, with dinner and breakfast
- return boat transfers from Wewak to Kairiru Island
- two nights village guest house accommodation and meals at Polen Guest House, Kairiru Island
- daily guided cultural demonstrations and sightseeing excursions on Kairiru Island
- evening village entertainment at Polen Guest House
- one night premier room accommodation at the Bird of Paradise Hotel in Goroka (or alternative), including breakfast, transfers
- brief walk around central Goroka with guide, if time and weather allow
- return road transfers to Lupipi Village, near Goroka (or alternative)
- two nights village guest house accommodation and meals at Lupipi Village (or alternative)
- daily cultural demonstrations and nature excursions at Lupipi Village (or alternative)
- one night village guest house accommodation, meals and daily activities at Kofure Village, Tufi
- two nights village guest house accommodation, meals and daily activities at Siu/Orotoaba Village, Tufi
- all boat transfers at Tufi
- Port Moresby airport transfer on departure

### ECOTOURISM MELANESIA LTD

Section 69 Lot 12, Govea Street • Gordons, Port Moresby • Papua New Guinea  
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- PNG country map
- Ecotourism Melanesia souvenir 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  
 lunches on travelling days (purchase snacks from shops en route)

**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. Overnight hotel (includes breakfast).
- Day 2** **PORT MORESBY / LAKE KUTUBU**  
 Morning flight from Port Moresby to Moro airfield in the Southern Highlands. From Moro, you will be transferred by road to Lake Kutubu and by longboat to Tubo Lodge, located on an island in the middle of the lake. Here, a conservation project initiated by WWF encourages the local people to protect their culture and environment by providing small-scale ecotourism facilities instead of relying on income from mining developments. The Lake Kutubu people have an ancient longhouse custom, and interesting burial practices: you will be shown all these during your stay. Accommodation at Tubo Lodge is hostel-style with meals included, based on local produce.
- Day 3** **LAKE KUTUBU**
- Day 4** **LAKE KUTUBU**
- Day 5** **LAKE KUTUBU / MT HAGEN**  
 Transfer back to Moro airfield for scheduled flight to Mt Hagen. (This flight does not go every day and some adjustment in this itinerary may be necessary to accommodate the Moro flight schedule). On arrival, transfer to Magic Mountain Hideaway, a set of guest bungalows at Paiya Village which enable visitors to observe the daily village lifestyle at close quarters. Western Highlands culture and customs are authentically demonstrated in the village environment. Village-style food is served and visitors are able to observe and even participate in the preparation. Overnight Magic Mountain Hideaway (includes meals).
- Day 6** **MT HAGEN**  
 At Magic Mountain, near Mt Hagen
- Day 7** **MT HAGEN / WEWAK / SEPIK RIVER**  
 Morning scheduled flight from Mt Hagen to Wewak. (This flight does not go every day and some adjustment in this itinerary may be necessary to accommodate the Wewak flight schedule). On arrival, you are met by your local guide and transferred by four wheel drive vehicle from Wewak to the road head at Pagwi, a mission station on the Middle Sepik River (6 hours drive - or

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Cessna charter flight, at our discretion). A short motor canoe ride brings you to Ambunti township where you will overnight at Ambunti Lodge.

Day 8

**SEPIK RIVER**

Travel downstream to the Middle Sepik villages of Korogo, Yentchen and Palimbe - home of the crocodile cult (overnight).

Day 9

**SEPIK RIVER**

Absorb the culture and lifestyle of Korogo, Yentchen and Palimbe (overnight).

Day 10

**SEPIK RIVER / WEWAK**

Return upstream to Pagwi and meet up with vehicle for road transfer back to Wewak, arriving late afternoon. Overnight Windjammer Beach Hotel (includes meals).

Day 11

**WEWAK / KAIRIRU ISLAND**

Water transfer from Wewak to Kairiru Island, check in at Polen Guest House. Here, local villagers have worked hard to prepare a menu of cultural activities which both entertain and teach visitors about the culture of the Wewak Islands (Kairiru, Muschu and Walis), through traditional singsings, music and drama. By day you will explore this scenic island, site of a Japanese military outpost in World War 2 and home to hot springs and explorable caves. In the evenings, the village cultural groups will fill the night with dance and song - and some very funny drama about courtship practices - on the lawns in front of the guest house. Overnight Polen Guest House (includes well prepared local style meals).

Day 12

**KAIRIRU ISLAND**

Day 13

**KAIRIRU ISLAND / WEWAK / GOROKA**

Water transfer back to Wewak, dropoff on the beach next to the airport and walk across the road to check in for your flight to Goroka, departing in the early afternoon. On arrival in Goroka, you are met by a local guide and transferred to the Bird of Paradise Hotel (or Inn Goroka) for overnight. Late in the afternoon, your guide will accompany you on a short walk around the town. Goroka is said to have the world's most pleasant climate but it gets a little chilly in the evenings so bring a light sweater. Overnight hotel (includes breakfast).

*[For 14 days tour, fly direct from Wewak to Port Moresby today, overnight hotel and fly out of PNG on Day 14].*

Day 14

**GOROKA / LUPIPI VILLAGE**

After breakfast your local guide will drive you out of Goroka to Lupipi village (OR one of the other local villages that host eco-tourists in the Goroka area - Mehenave, Daulo Verulu, or Onkinofi - depending on weather, availability, and the condition of the access roads). Lupipi (and each of the alternative villages) is off the main road requiring a walk of about one hour to reach the village: you can cloak your large luggage at the hotel in Goroka and take only a small overnight bag with you, which village guides will help carry. The village community you will visit has built a guest house for visitors and they have organised themselves to show visitors their unique natural environment including savannah, hardwood forest and high montane forest. This village experience is as real as it gets in Papua New Guinea and you will gain a true feel of these people's reliance on the natural environment for their food, shelter and livelihood.

Overnight accommodation will be in a neatly constructed village guest house

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(highlands round house) with a central fireplace and cosy sleeping rooms kitted with beds and blankets ... camp style but comfortable. A clean sit-down toilet is available out back.

On arrival you will be allocated to a village guide to look after you during your stay ...one guide per visitor so that the experience is more personal. Your guide will be the same gender as yourself, in accordance with highlands social norms. After the meet and greet, you'll be shown around the village by your guide, although probably trailing a column of curious village kids longer than Halley's Comet. Here in the village, the tide turns and you are no longer just the observer ... you are now also the observed !

During the afternoon when the weather is warmest you'll be taken for a nature hike through the forest near the village. As you stare agog at the biodiversity, your guide/s will identify for you the plants that they use for eating and for various other purposes like medication, building homes, making tools and implements, and fruits and other parts of plants they harvest and sell at the market in Goroka. (In the Goroka area there is a very active interest in traditional herbal medicine and a big local market for certain plants with medicinal properties).

The nights are chilly in the highlands and as there is no running water in the village, bath time this evening will involve a small tub of water warmed for you over the fire that you will use to take a sponge bath in the bathroom shower recess - a bit like a game of Twister in the nude, but you'll cope.

After a traditional style dinner that you will more than likely observe being cooked (or help in the cooking yourself) you will be drawn into the age-old highlands tradition of sitting around the central fire in the round house in the evening listening to people tell a mixture of true and untrue stories, and listen to the locals sing a few traditional songs, before heading for the warmth of your bed.

Overnight village guest house.

Day 15

#### **LUPIPI VILLAGE**

Lupipi village experience

Day 16

#### **LUPIPI VILLAGE / GOROKA / PORT MORESBY**

Morning: explore Lupipi village. After lunch, transfer back to Goroka town in time for late afternoon flight to Port Moresby. Overnight hotel (includes breakfast).

Day 17

#### **PORT MORESBY / TUFU**

Morning flight from Port Moresby to Tufu. (This flight does not go every day and some adjustment in this itinerary may be necessary to accommodate the Tufu flight schedule). On arrival, transfer to Kofure Village Guest House, which is located at the tip of the fjord peninsula on which Tufu airfield and station are located. On arrival at Kofure Village Guest House you will be served a village-style tropical breakfast consisting of fresh fruit, tea and hot scones and you will be able to spend some time getting to know your hosts. Then your hosts will take you on a familiarisation walk around the village area, meeting village people as you go along and absorbing some of the village atmosphere. During the morning you will be able to visit vegetable gardens to see how local foods are cultivated, see village people collecting water from a spring and climb a nearby ridge for a view of MacLaren Fjord and Tufu airfield. As lunchtime approaches you will be able to see how local foods are prepared; lunch is usually local greens and sweet potato or yam cooked in coconut milk with some

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fresh fish or lobster.

After lunch you may choose from a number of different village-based activities that are included in the cost of your tour:

explore the nearby fjords by paddling an outrigger canoe

take a stroll down to the Tufi market and "station", meet the locals, check out the local trade store

walk along the beach near the guest house

swim, snorkel or fish over a nearby reef

In the evening you will enjoy a local-style "mumu" dinner of freshly caught fish or lobster and other seafoods wrapped in banana leaves with ginger root and coconut milk and baked under hot stones with a variety of local vegetables.

Tonight some of the villagers will perform a traditional singsing for you: have your camera ready for a vibrant display of colourful feathers and tapa cloth accompanied by harmonious singing and the beating of hand drums covered with lizard skin.

Overnight Kofure Village Guest House (basic bungalow accommodation with simple furniture, clean mattress, pillow and sheets, mosquito net, outside toilet, basic shower).

## Day 18

### TUFI

This morning your hosts at Kofure will farewell you and you will be transferred by small boat to either the seaside of Siu, or the hilltop village of Orotoaba which is an easy 30 minutes walk inland from the beach.

Siu village is a small seaside village and the village guest house here is located right on the water's edge a short distance from the rest of the village (only 8 houses). There is a living reef right in front of your bungalow and you may snorkel to your heart's content all day long if you wish. Your hosts will drag you out of the water to feed you from time to time. From Siu you can paddle an outrigger canoe up the magnificent Utukwaf Fjord, taking in the breathtaking beauty of the sheer basalt cliffs of the fjord and stopping off to swim and snorkel on the numerous coral reefs that inhabit the fjord area. At one point you will be able to paddle up a freshwater stream, under the shade of the jungle canopy, to a beautifully cool waterfall where you can sit and relax under a refreshing cascade of water. Swimming, snorkelling, paddling, beachwalking and shell collecting will occupy you for the rest of the day (either that or some serious snoozing in the shade of a tree on the water's edge in front of your bungalow, coconut drink in hand...)

Orotoaba village (pronounced Orro-toe-bah) has green lawns, flowers, cool breezes and 360 degree views of the Tufi coastline. If you are interested in wildlife you can take a foray into the forest to view a variety of insects, mammals and birds. Raggiana birds of paradise nest in stands of tress not far from the village and their loud, raucous calls can be heard during the early mornings and evenings. The Queen Alexandra Birdwing butterfly is native to this area and can be found in the village gardens. Your hosts at Orotoaba will ensure you are well fed throughout the day on pineapple, pawpaw, bananas, sugar cane, mangoes, oranges, coconuts and other fruits, and the usual day's catch of fish and lobster cooked in a variety of ways.

## Day 19

### TUFI

At Siu / Orotoaba

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Day 20

TUFI / PORT MORESBY

Scheduled flight from Tufi back to Port Moresby and overnight hotel.

Day 21

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 page of our website.
2. 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.
3. Flight schedules servicing Moro, Wewak and Tufi are not daily. Depending on the day of the week you commence your tour, and the current schedule operated by the airline, it may be necessary for Ecotourism Melanesia to adjust your itinerary with one day extra here, one day less there. Normally there will be no additional cost to you, and no partial refund will be claimable when itinerary adjustments are required due to flight schedules. Sometimes schedule changes are notified by the airlines at short notice and last-minute itinerary changes must be accommodated.

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