



Ecotourism Melanesia

Discover Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

EM52 - HIGHLANDS HIGHWAY & MADANG PACKAGE FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS

6 nights ex-Port Moresby (2 nights Mt Hagen, 2 nights Goroka, 2 nights Madang)

PACKAGE COST:

Group of one	USD\$2415 per person	AUD\$3133 per person
Group of two	USD\$1808 per person	AUD\$2346 per person
Group of three	USD\$1681 per person	AUD\$2181 per person
Group of four	USD\$1561 per person	AUD\$2026 per person

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS:

- Meet and greet on arrival in Port Moresby
- Ecotourism Melanesia welcome pack including tourist information kit, maps, souvenir polo shirt and local phone calling card
- One way air travel Port Moresby-Mt Hagen and Madang-Port Moresby
- Mt Hagen meet and greet and day tour by Paiya Tours including Paiya Cultural Village sing-sing entertainment and culture show
- Two nights shared bungalow accommodation at Magic Mountain Nature Lodge including meals
- One day hiking or bird watching or scenic drive at Magic Mountain Nature Lodge
- Road transfer from Magic Mountain to Goroka by private vehicle
- Walking tour of Goroka township with guide
- Two nights twin share Premier room at Bird of Paradise Hotel (room only)
- One day Goroka village experience including road transfers and lunch
- Road transfer from Goroka to Madang by private vehicle
- Walking tour of Madang township with guide
- Two nights twin share Garden room at Madang Lodge (room only)
- Full day road tour of Madang district including lunch at Ohu Village
- Madang airport transfer

EXCLUSIONS:

- bar drinks, snacks, tips, souvenirs, personal items
- meals not specified as included

ITINERARY:

Day 1: Depart Port Moresby at 8.45am on PX 180 arriving Mt. Hagen at 9.45am. You will be met on arrival by Paiya Tours, who will take you on a sightseeing tour around Mt. Hagen town, a drive through coffee and tea plantations of the fertile Waghi Valley,

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Section 69 Lot 12, Govea Street • Gordons, Port Moresby • Papua New Guinea
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and a turn through the magnificent orchid gardens near Haus Poroman Lodge. After lunch (not included) you will be taken to Paiya Cultural Village for some highlands-style entertainment and a demonstration of traditional culture. From Paiya village it is another 20 minutes drive up the highway to Magic Mountain which is situated at a loftier altitude and often shrouded in low-level cloud. Turning off the main road you will take a hair-raising jolt along the four-wheel drive track that leads to the Magic Mountain Nature Lodge. Once the vehicle engine is switched off, you will notice the cool silence interrupted only by the calls of native birds. Magic Mountain Nature Lodge is a collection of self-contained highlands-style bungalows located in a natural setting - natural except for the strawberry garden - totally cut off from the outside world apart from the bumpy track. Here you can immerse yourself in the native flora and fauna of the PNG highlands.

Overnight Magic Mountain Nature Lodge (includes meals). NB Cool days (10° C -15° C and cold nights (down to 5° C) so bring appropriate clothing.

Day 2:

Full day at Magic Mountain. For today's activities, choose from:

- a full day hike to the summit of Mount Hagen (6 hours return trip) with nature-watching along the way,
- explore the nature trails in the vicinity of the Lodge (good bird watching opportunities and numerous varieties of plants including high-montane tree species and verdant ferns, high-altitude flowering shrubs)
- a half day scenic drive with your guide to Wapenamanda in the Enga Province and return

Overnight Magic Mountain Nature Lodge (includes meals)

Day 3:

After breakfast your guide from Paiya Tours will drive you from Magic Mountain back through Mt Hagen town and along the Highlands Highway to Goroka, arriving around lunchtime (5 hours trip). Stops will be made along the way for sightseeing, snacks and comfort. The Highlands Highway is an essential trade lifeline connecting the highlands with the port of Lae on the coast, but is also a very scenic journey. You will pass by tea and coffee plantations, high montane and sub-tropical forest, traditional villages, multitudes of roadside stalls, and breathtaking scenery especially as you pass through the Chimbu Province with its steep gorges. On arrival in Goroka you will check in at the Bird of Paradise Hotel (or alternative). Our local guide in Goroka will contact you upon check-in and take you on a walking tour of Goroka town area including the fresh food market, artifact market and the Raun Raun Theatre.

Overnight Bird of Paradise Hotel (if available) or Pacific Lodge (room only).

Day 4:

Full day Goroka village experience. You'll be driven out to a local village where you will be adopted by a village family for the day and learn about their lifestyle. Tour the village, try the local food and see their cultural treasures.

Overnight Bird of Paradise Hotel (if available) or Pacific Lodge (room only).

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Day 5: Morning road transfer from Goroka to Madang (5 hours). Your guide from Goroka will drive you, stopping at the Yonki Dam and other points of interest. As you descend from the altitude of the highlands the temperature and humidity rise gradually until you reach warm, steamy Madang.
After checking in at Madang Lodge a local guide from Madang will take you on a walk along the foreshore as far as the town centre to see the main market, Krangket fish market, artefact market and the huge rain trees populated by colonies of Madang's famous flying foxes. There are also a number of WW2 relics rusting on the beach. From town, your guide will return you by public bus to Madang Lodge.

Overnight Madang Lodge (Garden Room, room only)

Day 6: Today a day tour of Madang district and villages, including the Bilbil pottery village, the Balek Wildlife Sanctuary and Sulfur Caves (where parts of the Robinson Crusoe movie were shot) and the historical Alexishafen Mission with its abandoned WW2 airstrip and historical cemetery. Towards lunchtime, continue on to Ohu Village where your hosts will serve traditional food for lunch and take you on a tour around their village. At Ohu there is also a butterfly conservation area and a 100m waterfall which you can stand under to cool off. Late in the afternoon, return to town to witness the nightly flying fox migration which necessitates an early curfew at the local airport.

Overnight Madang Lodge (Garden Room, room only)

Day 7: Early flight from Madang to Port Moresby connects with Air Niugini's 9.25am flight to Cairns, Australia

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