



Ecotourism Melanesia

Discover Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

EM56 - GOROKA AND MADANG PACKAGE FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS AND SMALL GROUPS 4 nights ex-Port Moresby (1 night Goroka, 3 nights Madang)

This itinerary features two of PNG's easily accessible destinations with contrasting scenery, culture and natural and historical attractions:

Goroka - scenic highlands terrain and exotic tribal culture.

Madang - pretty coastal scenery, peaceful seaside villages and tropical rainforest

The package includes local guides to accompany you daily for all activities.

This package tour may commence any day of the week.

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

Group of 1	Group of 2	Group of 3	Group of 4+	Group of 6+	Group of 8+	Group of 10+
PGK 14,429	PGK 8,643	PGK 6,619**	PGK 5,982***	PGK 5,512***	PGK 5,161***	PGK 5,093***
<i>Single supplement</i>	PGK 1800	PGK 1800	PGK 1800	PGK 1800	PGK 1800	PGK 1800

*These 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

**based on triple share

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

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS (STANDARD 4 NIGHT PACKAGE):

- Port Moresby - meet, greet and assist
- Port Moresby - welcome kit with arrival gift, destination information, maps and souvenir polo shirt
- Goroka - 1 night premier room at Bird of Paradise Hotel (or equivalent) - room only, twin share
- Goroka - half-day Goroka district tour as described in itinerary, including lunch
- Goroka - half day Kemase village experience, including lunch
- Goroka to Madang road transfer, with driver and guide
- Madang -3 nights premier room at Coastwatchers Hotel (or equivalent) - room only, twin share
- Madang - two full day tours as described in itinerary, including lunches
- Local guide daily at each destination
- All airport transfers throughout the tour
- All taxes and gratuities
- Daily tour monitoring and reconfirmations from our Port Moresby office
- 24-hour telephone assistance (ph 686 8917)

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EXCLUSIONS:

- Airfares
- Meals not specified as included
- Snacks and bar drinks
- Excess baggage charges
- Visa fees
- Personal items and souvenirs
- Tips. Tipping is not customary or expected in PNG and all individuals assisting in the provision of services for your tour are compensated adequately by Ecotourism Melanesia. However if there is somebody you would like to reward for exceptional effort you are welcome to offer a tip. Suggested amounts: PGK5 for an enthusiastic bellhop up to PGK20 for a tour guide who goes that extra mile.

GENERIC ITINERARY

DAY 1:

PORT MORESBY / GOROKA

07:00 Ecotourism Melanesia staff will assist you as the domestic terminal to check in for your flight to Goroka.

09:15 **Air Niugini flight PX960** departs Port Moresby for Goroka.

10:25 You will be met on arrival in Goroka by our local guide - look for somebody holding a sign with your name. The guide will transfer to your hotel for check-in. The hotel is only a two minute drive from the airport.

11:30 Make an early start to your half day tour of Goroka and district. A packed lunch is provided to eat en route.

The half day tour begins with a familiarisation drive around Goroka and surrounds, then you'll stop and visit the JK McCarthy Museum of highlands culture, and the Raun Raun drama theatre where you will be treated to a short performance of a social awareness skit on HIV/AIDS or domestic violence. Venturing further out of town you'll pay a visit to a smallholder coffee block and learn how coffee underpins the rural economy in the highlands. Continuing northwest along the Highlands Highway and up a series of steep hairpin bends brings you to the Daulo Pass, a high-altitude biodiversity hotspot. Visible from your vehicle through the swirling mists is a magnificent variety of flowering trees and non-flowering ferns and palms, bubbling brooks and tiny waterfalls. Children sell fresh flower garlands on the roadside. A little further is the rugged high-montane terrain of the Chimbu Province featuring amazing vegetable gardens growing on impossibly steep ridges. Descending by the same route to the Asaro Valley you will make a stop at Asaro village, home of the famed Asaro mudmen. These people have a tradition of crafting fierce looking clay helmets worn during tribal fights in the olden days to frighten the enemy. The helmets are also worn for traditional dancing and drama performances demonstrating how their ancestors stalked enemy tribes. You'll be shown how the clay helmets are made and used, and you'll be treated to some dance and drama.

18:00 Return to hotel

Overnight Bird of Paradise Hotel, Goroka (premier room, accommodation only).

NB Dinner and breakfast at this hotel are not included in the tour package (ie these meals are pay-as-you-go or PAYG - the hotel accepts major credit cards,

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travellers cheques and local currency). The hotel has two eateries - a bistro/pizzeria with daily specials and a formal restaurant with a la carte dining on weekdays and a full buffet on weekends. There is a good Chinese restaurant across the street. Groceries for self-catering can be purchased from the small supermarket opposite the hotel which closes at 18:30.

DAY 2:

GOROKA (VILLAGE EXPERIENCE) AND DRIVE TO MADANG

07:00 Breakfast and check out of the hotel.

08:00 Today you will travel by road from Goroka to Madang, stopping en route for a highlands village experience.

After heading south along the busy Highlands Highway for half an hour your vehicle will turn off the main road and follow a rural feeder road for another hour to Kemase village. Here, the local people farm the land to support themselves with food, and grow cash crops such as coffee and market vegetables to raise income to buy clothing and other needs, and pay school fees for their children. On arrival at the village you will be treated to a traditional welcome (have your camera ready!) and meet the village people. A small crowd of enthusiastic "guides" will show you around the village: their homes, the village school, village church and of course the all-important pig pens and vegetable gardens. Valuable tribal artifacts traded for bride price and paraded during sing-sings will be brought out for you to examine. You will be taken to the village gardens and shown how yams and other staple vegetables are cultivated. The spiritual connection between the village people and their gardens will be explained to you: there are many superstitions regarding the effect of people's behaviour on the growth of the garden crops. Near the village is an interesting gorge populated by large boulders that the people believe have spiritual properties. It is forbidden to speak while walking among the boulders. In the gorge is a burial cave where the bones of ancestors are displayed. Children dressed in traditional costume as a sign of respect for the ancestors will guide you into the cave. The caves were also used as a hiding place during tribal fights in the past. A demonstration of tribal fighting with spears and "bunara" (bow and arrow) will be performed. At the end of the gorge is a feasting ground where the village people usually gather for feasts. Here your lunch has been prepared, meat and vegetables stuffed into bamboo nodes and roasted under hot stones, with fruit on the side.

After lunch you will farewell the villagers and drive back to the main road, turning towards the Ramu Highway which will take you through to Madang. The drive is very scenic, passing through many roadside villages, mountain passes, wide valleys and the Yonki Dam hydro-electric complex. At one point you will notice the sudden rise in temperature as you pass through the inversion layer between the cool highlands and the tropical coastal lowlands. There will be comfort stops en route and opportunities to buy fruit and cooked foods from roadside stalls.

From Kemase to Madang the drive takes about 5 hours and you will arrive in Madang early evening. Your driver and guide from Goroka will assist you to check in at your hotel and then farewell you. (They will overnight with relatives in Madang and return to Goroka tomorrow).

Overnight Coastwatchers Hotel, Madang (premier room, accommodation only).

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DAY 3:

MADANG (TOWN AND HARBOUR SIGHTSEEING)

An early stroll along the foreshore adjacent to the hotel is great way to start today. Just near the hotel is one of Madang's landmarks, the Coastwatchers Lighthouse at Kalibobo Point. Also nearby are the Madang golf links with attractive gardens and lily ponds. Along the foreshore reserve you will come across rusting World War 2 artillery pieces and children swimming in the sea.

08:00 Our local Madang guide will meet up with you at the hotel reception. Today's activity is a full day of sightseeing including a visit to the small islands in the harbour with an opportunity for some swimming and snorkelling - bring a change of clothes and plenty of sunscreen.

In the morning you'll tour Madang town, stopping at various points of interest including:

- Town market (fresh produce and handicrafts)
 - Town centre flying fox colony
 - Bilbil Pottery Village
 - Balek Sulfur Cave
 - parks, gardens and war memorials
- (A picnic lunch is provided during the tour today.)

In the afternoon your guide will take you exploring the myriad of islands in Madang Harbour by local-style "banana boat" - a large fibreglass canoe with outboard motor (life jackets are provided but the harbour waters are calm). Populated islands include Krangket Island and Siar Island but smaller islets are uninhabited. After visiting one of the villages on the islands you'll be taken to a quiet island beach where you can take a swim, and snorkel on the reef. (Basic snorkelling equipment is provided but our guide may not be trained in lifesaving so you would enter the water at your own risk). There are no poisonous jellyfish, stingrays or other dangerous marine life in this location.

17:30 Return to Madang town in time to witness the nightly flying fox migration. Flying foxes are unique to Madang. Similar colonies are not found in other PNG towns.

Overnight Coastwatchers Hotel, Madang (premier room, accommodation only).

DAY 4:

MADANG (NATURE AND CULTURE ECO-TOUR)

07:00 Today you will make an early start to a very full eco-tour out the North Coast Road. Accompanied by your local guide and a hamper of bottled water and fruit, your tour vehicle (four-wheel drive or 15-seater minibus) will first travel 30 minutes out of town along the main road before turning off to the Kau Wildlife Management Area.

Kau WMA is an area of natural rainforest that has been undisturbed by development. In the 1960s many forest areas of Madang were heavily logged by foreign timber cutters but the Ditipa clan at Kau refused to sell out. Clan leader Kiatek resisted cash-for-logs and intense political pressure, and became a vocal anti-logging campaigner. To this day Kau remains pristine and although Kiatek is now deceased his sons support his legacy and operate the forest as a wildlife management area under government protection. The WMA features a

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huge variety of tropical flora and fauna including many species of rainforest birds, butterflies, exotic beetles and huge stick insects. Apart from every imaginable shade of green, the flora includes patches of bright red and orange gingers and many species of wild orchid. Bird species include some unusual species like the long tailed buzzard and the spot winged monarch, plus several different kinds of bird-of-paradise.

At Kau you'll be taken on a one hour nature walk through the rainforest by Kiatek's sons and their family members. They will talk to you about the forest and its inhabitants, demonstrating traditional uses for various plants as food and medicine. You'll stop at a number of bird-watching hotspots and hopefully identify several species. There is also a good scenic lookout at Kau from where you can see up and down the coastline.

Moving on from Kau you'll make a brief stop at Alexishafen, a catholic mission established in 1896 when Madang was the administrative centre of German New Guinea. Here there is a colonial cemetery with some fascinating headstones and a World War 2 airstrip that was operated by the Japanese. There are still a number of aircraft wrecks scattered around the strip, mainly parked Japanese planes that were destroyed by allied bombing.

From Alexishafen, you'll turn off the main road again to the Mudug cave and cascades.

The Mudug cave is a natural wonder, created by a stream running through a subterranean tunnel that traverses the interior of the mountain and empties into a large natural water pool about 9 metres deep near Sein village. The pool acts as a natural reservoir and from here water feeds into a series of pretty cascades eventually forming into a stream that flows to the sea. The cave itself is believed to be about 1km in length but no locals have ever followed the cave right back to its origin due to superstitious beliefs. The cave is high enough to walk into and after exploring its depths as far as you dare (BYO flashlight) you can take a refreshing swim in the flow pool. Swallows and bats inhabit the cave, and there is plenty of rainforest wildlife in the immediate area, similar to Kau.

From Mudug you'll continue driving another 30 minutes out the scenic North Coast Road to Udisis, a coastal village which has a number of interesting ecotourism attractions. On arrival, lunch is ready for you at the village guest house. There will be plenty of fish, fruit and vegetables cooked in local style, and freshly opened coconut juice to drink. After lunch the rest of the afternoon is spent at Udisis before returning to Madang.

The people at Udisis village have made a conscious decision to make their village tourist-friendly to enable visitors to experience the natural and cultural attractions of their place during a short day trip. While you are seated for lunch the Wadug Theatre Group will perform for you. This group consists of village youth who have researched the very old traditions of their area and produced a dance and drama routine that showcases the old culture. Their costumes are 100% traditional with not a skerrick of raffia or cloth, and apart from custom dancing they also role-play traditional activities such as courtship behaviour, bride price payment and wedding ceremony, and the initiation of boys into manhood. You'll learn about the tribal traditions and also have a lot of laughs as the youth portray the funny side of their ancestors'

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ways. After the cultural performance you'll be taken on a walking tour of the village, and if time allows you can also take an optional rainforest walk to the Yaimat Cave (similar to Mudug cave) and the Berun Bridge, a natural limestone formation like a bridge. Late afternoon bird watching is also very good here. If you skip the rainforest walk you can opt to depart from Udidis a little earlier and make a stop for a swim or snorkel in the sea at the Hole In The Wall on the way back to Madang. The Hole In The Wall is a large natural tidal pool adjacent to a fringing reef. If you duck-dive down the side of the tidal pool you will come to a big hole that connects the tidal pool to the open sea. You can swim through the hole and surface outside the tidal pool.

18:00 Return to Madang town (1 hour drive).

Overnight Coastwatchers Hotel, Madang (twin premier room, accommodation only).

NB Late start, slow progress or wet weather may require one or more of today's tour stops to be skipped. Your guide will keep you informed.

DAY 5:

DEPART MADANG

Check out of your hotel - the hotel shuttle bus will transfer you to the Madang airport and our local guide will be there to assist you with check-in for your onward flight to Port Moresby or other destination.

TOUR ENDS

POSSIBLE EXTENSIONS: Extend this trip to:

- Rabaul (see package EM40A Six Nights Taste of PNG)
- Simbai (see package EM63 Taste of Simbai, EM61 Simbai Easy Trek)
- Sepik River (see package EM55 Goroka, Madang, Sepik or EM3a Middle Sepik Safari)
- Jais Aben Resort, Madang (waterside bungalows offering beach, water sports)

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