



# Ecotourism Melanesia

Discover Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

## EM57 - GOROKA, MADANG, SIMBAI PACKAGE FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS 6 nights ex-Port Moresby (1 night Goroka, 3 nights Madang, 2 nights Simbai)

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

*Goroka - scenic highlands terrain and mountain villages.*

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

*Simbai - remote, untouched exotic tribal culture*

*The package is semi-escorted - our trained local guides will accompany you daily for all activities.*

*This package enables non-trekkers to visit the remote Kalam tribe and learn something of their culture and hunter-gatherer lifestyle. Based for two nights at the Kalam Guest House at Nugent village, about 30 minutes walk from Simbai airstrip, you will be able to take short walks (1-2 hours round trip) to satellite hamlets around the Simbai sub-district and enjoy short forays into the surrounding forest to see birds of paradise, furry mammals and exotic wild orchids. For information on Simbai and the Kalam tribe go to our website [www.em.com.pg](http://www.em.com.pg), click on "TOURIST INFO BY PROVINCE" then follow the links to "Madang" and "Simbai - home of the Kalam tribe"*

*Flights to and from Simbai do not operate Sundays so Day 4 or Day 6 cannot be a Sunday. Optional extensions are available to:*

*- Ramu River and Bogia*

*- Sepik River and Wewak Islands*

### PACKAGE COST\*: (6 nights core package, per person, twin share, does not include Air Niugini airfares)

Group of 1	Group of 2	Group of 3	Group of 4+
PGK 18,571	PGK 11,536	PGK 9,286**	PGK 8,661***

\*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](http://www.em.com.pg)

\*\*based on triple share

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

### EXTENSION COSTS: (per person)

	Group of 1	Group of 2	Group of 3	Group of 4+
Extra nights Simbai for trekking/caving*	PGK 300	PGK 300	PGK 300	PGK 300
Extend to Ramu River and Bogia 3 nts	PGK 6000	PGK 4000	PGK 3000	PGK 2500
Extend to Sepik River 2 nts**	PGK 9000	PGK 5000	PGK 4000	PGK 3500
Extra nights Sepik River touring	PGK 1200	PGK 840	PGK 720	PGK 600
Extend from Sepik to Kairiru Island 2 nts ***	PGK 3500	PGK 2500	PGK 2000	PGK 1750

\*Extra nights Simbai includes village guest house accommodation, meals, local guide for day hiking or village visits, and village gratuities

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#### PACKAGE INCLUSIONS (STANDARD 6 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 (or similar), 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 including lunches
- Return light aircraft flights Madang-Simbai-Madang
- Two nights village guest house accommodation at Simbai with local-style meals supplemented with some packaged food and bottled water.
- Two days culture and nature experiences in Kalam tribal villages and rainforest near Simbai - optional day hikes to nearby villages or stay close by the guest house. Includes guide, village gratuities.
- Kalam tribal sing-sing at Simbai
- Local guide daily at each destination
- All airport meet/greet/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)

#### INCLUSIONS FOR OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO RAMU RIVER AND BOGIA - 3 NIGHTS

- Short-hop airfare from Simbai to Aiome
- Two nights village accommodation with local-style food and camp rations (Atemble, Ramu River)
- Two days motorised canoe or dinghy hire from Atemble to Base Camp including guide, driver and fuel
- Bottled or boiled water for the river trip
- Road transfer from Base Camp to Bogia (private vehicle)
- One night 2 star guest house accommodation at Anua Negu Lodge, Bogia with dinner and breakfast
- Full day road transfer from Bogia to Madang, with stops (private vehicle). Lunch not included.

#### INCLUSIONS FOR OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO SEPIK RIVER - 2 NIGHTS

- Light aircraft charter flight Simbai-Timbunke
- Two nights Middle Sepik river touring, overnights in village huts, includes guide, motorised canoe, fuel, food, bottled water, village gratuities
- Road transfer from Pagwi (Middle Sepik) to Wewak

#### INCLUSIONS FOR OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO KAIRIRU ISLAND - 2 NIGHTS

- Return speed boat transfers to Kairiru Island
- Village tour, village sing-sing, other activities as described
- two nights village guest house with meals

#### 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.

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## GENERIC ITINERARY

### DAY 1:

#### PORT MORESBY / GOROKA

07:00 Ecotourism Melanesia staff will assist you at 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, 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*

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*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).

### 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

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- 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 / SIMBAI

0700 The hotel shuttle bus will transfer you to Madang airport to check in for your light aircraft flight to Simbai (your ticket will be available for collection at the check-in counter).

*NB Simbai flights do not operate on a fixed schedule - departure and arrival times are flexible to meet the needs of passengers and cargo customers at various remote airstrips around the Madang province, and therefore you may need to be patient if the aircraft has to do a run to another airstrip and back before doing the Simbai run. Unless the weather is really bad, the Simbai flight always operates Mon-Sat but you may have to wait.*

On arrival at Simbai airstrip you will be met by our local guide with a few extra guys to help carry bags. From the airstrip it is a 45 minute hike to the Kalam Guest House.

Today you will explore the tiny Simbai government outpost, visit the little Kalam Culture Centre which has displays of traditional tribal artifacts, tour the exotic orchid gardens and walk through some of the satellite hamlets around Simbai.

Overnight Kalam Guest House, Simbai.

*A traditional Kalam tribal sing-sing will be held in your honour either this evening or on your last night.*

#### DAY 5:

##### SIMBAI

Today your guide will give you a choice of activities depending on your interests and your hiking ability.

If you are fit to hike for about 4 hours you will take a scenic hike through some village hamlets a little further afield, stopping to meet and talk to locals you meet on the way. There will be spontaneous opportunities to observe or join in with locals doing their gardening, hunting, building houses and other day to day activities.

If you are not much of a hiker there is plenty to see around Simbai and its nearby satellite hamlets. Visit the primary school and give a talk about your home country and hear the children sing the national anthem - teachers are delighted with such opportunities for the students to hear English spoken by Westerners. Visit the little health centre and talk with the nurse about the

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kinds of health problems people experience in this remote area. Take a short walk into the forest with your guide who will point out wild orchids, medicinal plants and perhaps a shy tree kangaroo or cuscus. Sit with village women as they prepare traditional foods, and let the men show you their "bride price" heirlooms, and demonstrate how they make their trademark green beetle head-dresses.

Overnight Kalam Guest House, Simbai.

#### DAY 6:

#### **SIMBAI / MADANG (NATURE AND CULTURE ECO-TOUR)**

After breakfast, walk to the airstrip and wait for today's light aircraft flight to Madang. Our Madang guide will be waiting for you at the airport and whisk you away on a visit to the Kau Wildlife Management Area and the Udisis Cultural Village.

*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 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 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.*

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*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' 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 7:

#### MADANG / PORT MORESBY

Fly to Port Moresby and connect with your onward flight. Our guides will meet and assist you at both Madang and Port Moresby airports.

### OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO RAMU RIVER AND BOGIA - 3 NIGHTS

DAY 6:

#### SIMBAI TO AIOME AND ATEMBLE

After breakfast, walk to the airstrip and wait for today's light aircraft flight to Aiome mission station. Aiome is the "big smoke" compared to Simbai. There is a high school, catholic mission, small government office and a few little trade stores. Stop here for lunch and treat yourself to a cold Coke from the shop - well, it will be cold if the station generator is working.

From Aiome it is a 30 minute drive or 3 hour walk to the Ramu River. Atemble village on the south bank is the landing place for canoes and outboard dinghies.

*NOTE about vehicle transport to Ramu River. There is a vehicular track between Aiome and Atemble that is used to ferry passengers and cargo to and from the river, but vehicles are not always available and sometimes people have to walk and carry.*

*There is no road link from Aiome to the outside world and there are only a few vehicles at Aiome that just do local runs around the area (and up to Simbai if the track is clear). One vehicle is owned by the mission, one by the high school and there are one or two private trucks available for hire when they are running. Whenever the local vehicles break down they are often out of service for a long time awaiting parts - and a mechanic - to come from Madang.*

*If there are no serviceable vehicles available to Aiome at the time of your visit you must be prepared to walk to the river.*

At Atemble you will (hopefully) find waiting for you our outboard-powered canoe, ready to take you downstream tomorrow morning.

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Overnight village accommodation, Atemble.

**DAY 7:**

**ATEMBLE TO RAMU RIVER VILLAGE**

This morning your guide from Simbai will farewell you at Atemble and hand you over to our Ramu River guide who will have also a canoe driver and helper on board to assist.

From Atemble you will spend a good part of today motoring down the river and depending on how far you get you will overnight at a riverbank village that your guide will select.

There is plenty of time to stop at small hamlets on the banks of the river to visit with the locals. Along the Ramu River the population is very sparse and the locals are happy to receive visitors. Most locals live in small family hamlets rather than large villages, because of limited carrying capacity of gardens planted on the riverbanks. Annual floods wash away the gardens and food crops have to be replanted at the beginning of each dry season, which makes it difficult to sustain large village populations.

Overnight Ramu River village - some local food will be provided - must be time for some FISH by now!

**DAY 8:**

**RAMU RIVER TO BOGIA**

Continue motoring downstream for most of the day, arriving at "Base Camp" mid afternoon. Base Camp is the point on the Ramu River closest to Bogia and the North Coast Road to Madang. This is the jumping off point, and arrival point, for river traffic connecting with road vehicles going to Madang. There is no village here but a small resident population of fuel sellers, and a trade store. People camp here under tarpaulins while waiting for their road or river transport.

At Base Camp (again, hopefully) a vehicle will be waiting to drive you to Bogia, a small town on the coast, about 90 minutes from the river, over a fairly bumpy feeder road.

On arrival at Bogia, check in at Anua Negu Lodge, a modern guest house that will seem to you like The Ritz after so many nights in villages.

Overnight Anua Negu Lodge, Bogia (single or twin share rooms with shared bathroom) - includes dinner and breakfast.

**DAY 9:**

**BOGIA TO MADANG**

Today your hosts at Anua Negu Lodge will drive you to Madang. This will be a 6 hour road trip. The North Coast Road is tar-sealed much of the way and is quite a pleasant ride. It is a very scenic drive, with beautiful coastal panoramas. You will ask the driver to stop many times while you take photographs. The peaks volcanic Manam Island and much-larger Karkar Island will be in view for much of the trip. There are numerous pretty beaches and rivers where your driver will be happy to stop for you to take a swim or a beach walk. There will be many roadside market stalls where you will be able to buy fruit, cooked foods and delicious green drinking coconuts, so you should plan to buy your own lunch today.

Late afternoon you will arrive in Madang town and be dropped off at your accommodation (not included in package).

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**OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO SEPIK RIVER - 2 NIGHTS**

**DAY 6:**

**SIMBAI / MIDDLE SEPIK**

After breakfast, walk to the airstrip and wait for today's light aircraft flight to arrive from Madang. Today the flight will be diverted to fly you on a charter basis to Timbunke airstrip on the Middle Sepik. You should arrive at Timbunke by midday. Our Sepik guide will be waiting for you at Timbunke airstrip. A short walk from the airstrip is the mighty Sepik River and your waiting motor canoe. If our local guide and the canoe are not there when you arrive, perch yourself on the shady lawn near the catholic church and wait there. Our guide will not be far away and may have been delayed by weather conditions or other factors. Timbunke mission station is a safe place to wait.

From Timbunke you will board the motorised canoe and travel 1 hour downstream to Tambanum, the largest village on the Sepik River. Tambanum is known locally as the "carving factory" of the Sepik due to the prolific output of its village artisans. Tour the village, inspect the men's spirit houses (males only - please display reverence) and view artefacts available for sale. For lunch today the guide will purchase fruit and dried fish from the local people for you. Fresh green coconuts can be purchased for drinking. The local tour guide will bring with him a supply of bottled water for you. Overnight village hut, Tambanum Village (village food and camp rations for dinner and breakfast). NB there is no village guesthouse at Tambanum and the guide will arrange a private homestay.

**DAY 7:**

**MIDDLE SEPIK**

From Tambanum, motor upstream past Mindimbit and Angriman villages. If time permits you can stop and walk around the villages and see their Haus Tambarans (men's spirit houses). These villages each have their own distinct artistic style - Mindimbit figurines are moon-faced figurines while Angriman masks and figurines have elongated faces. Continuing upstream, by lunchtime you will arrive at the crocodile cult villages of Yentchen, Palembangi and Kanganaman. These three villages are situated close to each other on opposite sides of the river. Spend time in these villages this afternoon, your guide will introduce you to the village people and they will be proud to tell you about their traditions. Here, the crocodile is respected and revered for its strength, stealth and hunting ability - the people identify with the crocodile and seek to be like it - boys undergo an initiation ceremony in their early teens when the skin on their back is cut in many places with a razor - without anaesthetic - and ashes or other organic material is inserted under the skin causing bumpy scars that resemble the dorsal surface of the crocodile. The skin cutting ritual occurs on average only once every two years these days due to increasing numbers of young men leaving the village to go to boarding school or look for work in Wewak and other towns - their exposure to modern culture weakens their resolve to undergo the agony of the skin cutting ritual. Overnight Kanganaman village guesthouse (includes dinner and breakfast). Lunch today will be fruit and dried fish purchased from locals - your guide will organise this.

**DAY 8:**

**MIDDLE SEPIK / WEWAK**

From Kanganaman, motor upstream to the Pagwi Mission Station and board our waiting vehicle for the road transfer to Wewak town (3 hours). En route you can buy fresh fruit and cooked foods from roadside markets for your lunch (own expense).

The earliest you could arrive in Wewak would be 1300hrs. The trip may take longer in the case of bad weather, or problems with the motor canoe or road vehicle (flat tyre etc) but by leaving Kanganaman early around 0600 you can make allowance for contingencies.

On arrival in Wewak, proceed straight to the airport and check in for your afternoon flight from Wewak to Port Moresby or Madang (not included in package) or overnight hotel (not included in package).

End of 2 nights Sepik River extension

OR

**OPTIONAL EXTENSION FROM SEPIK RIVER TO KAIRIRU ISLAND - 2 NIGHTS**

**DAY 9:**

**WEWAK / KAIRIRU ISLAND**

On arrival in Wewak, meet up with your guide from Kairiru Island who will be waiting for you at the Windjammer Beach Hotel. You may wish to have a late lunch here before going to the island (own expense).

Your guide will transfer you by motor boat (45 min) to Shagur Village on the seaward (north) side of Kairiru Island. Here, the village people will await you with an enthusiastic traditional welcome. Take a familiarisation walk around the village before dark.

This evening, the village people will entertain you by firelight with their cultural dancing, singing and some drama skits of traditional "fairy tales". Dinner tonight will be an island-style feast with all traditional foods.

Overnight village guest house, Kairiru Island (basic accommodation, includes meals)

**DAY 10:**

**KAIRIRU ISLAND / WEWAK**

Today there is a choice of activities on this tropical paradise island.

1. full day mountain hike with village guides to the crater lake at the top of the island. This is a challenging hike, a 6-hour round trip for fast walkers. Slow walkers (and photographers!) have to make it an overnight trip and camp overnight in a lean-to at the lakeside. The crater lake is a biodiversity hotspot with a wide variety of birds, a microcosm of tropical plants, and clean water for swimming. There is no human habitation here and it is a truly pristine spot.
2. full day coastal hike first to the waterfall east of Shagur and then around to the west of Shagur to explore tidal caves, ending up at Victoria Bay where there is a nice beach and a small bubbling hot spring emanating from a rocky outcrop on the sand. The hot spring empties into the sea which makes for a great mineral spa.
3. shorter walks to the waterfall and return, around the village, along the coast to the next village, up the hill to the Japanese lookout cave.
4. canoeing. If the sea is calm, learn how to paddle a native canoe and even go

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out with a few of the village boys to try your luck at fishing with traditional spear or hook-and-line

5. village-based activities. Learn how to weave mats, cook local foods, build houses with leaves and sticks, cultivate tropical vegetables in the gardens, carve paddles, weapons and tools from wood.

Overnight village guest house, Kairiru Island (basic accommodation, includes meals)

**DAY 11:**

**DEPART WEWAK**

Boat transfer to Wewak airport beach and walk across the road to the terminal to check in for your outgoing flight.