



# Ecotourism Melanesia

Discover Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

EM101 **MAINLAND NEW GUINEA BIRDWATCHING TOUR** - 14 days, 21 days or 28 days **GROUP TOUR** (4 - 16 pax)  
Port Moresby, Kiunga, Ekame Wildlife Lodge, Tabubil, Mt Hagen, Goroka, Crater Mountain (14 days)  
+ more Crater Mountain, Kikori, Port Moresby, Varirata National Park (21 days)  
+ Alotau, Normanby Island (28 days)  
Tour operates on-demand, any date

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. If you are arriving on the early morning flight from Singapore, an extra day trip to Varirata National Park can be arranged for today.

Overnight hotel (includes meals).

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. 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 and 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 available.

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

Day 3

EKAME

Birding at Ekame Wildlife Lodge

## ECOTOURISM MELANESIA LTD

Section 69 Lot 12, Govea Street • Gordons, Port Moresby • Papua New Guinea  
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- 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 (includes meals)
- 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. Overnight Hotel Cloudlands, Tabubil (includes meals).
- Day 8 TABUBIL  
Birding forays around Tabubil, with guide. Overnight Hotel Cloudlands, Tabubil (includes meals).
- 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 all 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 (includes meals)
- Day 11 MT HAGEN / GOROKA  
Morning road transfer from Mt Hagen to Goroka via the highlands highway, passing through the spectacularly scenic Chimbu province. Check in at the Bird of Paradise Hotel (or alternative) in time for lunch (not included). In the afternoon, a tour of Goroka town including the coffee factory, fresh food market, and cultural museum. Goroka is said to have the world's most pleasant climate. Overnight hotel, Goroka.
- Day 12 GOROKA / CRATER MOUNTAIN  
After early breakfast, transfer to Goroka airport for your charter flight to the Crater Mountain Wildlife Management Area. Crater Mountain is a spectacular, mountainous place, a series of peaks around an ancient volcanic caldera, which offers magnificent opportunities for bird watching. A variety of species inhabit the caldera at different altitudes. The local people live spread out in hamlets built on the tops of several ridges, completely surrounded by lush tropical rainforest and dramatic mountain peaks. You may be flown into the village of Maimafu or Herowana depending on logistics and you will stay at the local village guest house. Some food supplies will be flown in with your group and some food will be provided by local villagers. Biologists working with the local Research and Conservation Foundation may be available to give a lecture on local species.  
The rest of the day is spent on birding forays into the forest. Overnight Crater Mountain (village guest house).

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- Day 13 CRATER MOUNTAIN  
Birding at Crater Mountain.  
*[For 14 days tour, today a late afternoon charter flight will return you to Goroka for overnight and you will fly to Port Moresby in the morning on Day 14 to connect with the Singapore flight. If connecting to a flight to Australia you will fly to Port Moresby on Day 13 (PX963 GKA POM 1730/1840), overnight hotel in Port Moresby and fly out to Australia (Brisbane or Cairns) on the morning of Day 14.]*
- Day 14 CRATER MOUNTAIN  
Birding at Crater Mountain.
- Day 15 CRATER MOUNTAIN / KIKORI  
Airlift direct from Crater Mountain to Kikori in the Papuan Gulf. Kikori is located in an expansive river delta teeming with wildlife. The World Wildlife Fund has been working with local communities to conserve the rich local biodiversity. After checking in at Delta Lodge you will be taken on a familiarisation tour of the Kikori delta by speed boat, eyeing off your preferred birding sites for tomorrow. Bird habitats around Kikori include include freshwater river, saline delta, tidal mudflats, swamp, mangroves and alluvial rainforest. Common species include herons, cranes, hornbills, parrots, cassowaries, cockatoos and honeyeaters. Kikori is an area of high rainfall and inclement weather must be allowed for in planning bird watching activities here. Overnight Delta Lodge, Kikori.
- Day 16 KIKORI  
Birding forays around Kikori. Your group may be divided among preferred habitats: motor boat transport is provided as required or you can move about on foot. Packed lunches are provided.
- Day 17 KIKORI  
Birding forays around Kikori.
- Day 18 KIKORI  
Birding forays around Kikori.
- Day 19 KIKORI / PORT MORESBY  
Morning: birding around Kikori. After lunch, you will board a scheduled flight to Port Moresby and overnight hotel.
- Day 20 PORT MORESBY / VARIRATA  
Full day birding excursion to the Varirata National Park, approximately one hour's drive from Port Moresby. Overnight hotel.
- Day 21 PORT MORESBY / ALOTAU  
Morning or afternoon flight from Port Moresby to Alotau. Sightseeing around Alotau if time allows. Overnight Napatana Lodge.  
*[OR 21 days tour ends today - fly out of Port Moresby to Australia or Singapore]*
- Day 22 ALOTAU / NORMANBY ISLAND  
Boat transfer from Alotau to Sewa Bay on Normanby Island. Sewa Bay is a recently discovered birding site not yet frequented by foreign birdwatchers. See Milne Bay bird list for species observed here. Accommodation at Sibonai village guest house.

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Day 23	NORMANBY ISLAND Birding around Sibonai.
Day 24	NORMANBY ISLAND Overnight birding foray into the forest around Sewa Bay, overnighing in bush hut. Sleeping bags not required due to hot weather but mosquito needs and rubber sleeping mats are supplied. Camp/village food.
Day 24	NORMANBY ISLAND Return to Sibonai from overnight camp. Overnight Sibonai.
Day 25	NORMANBY ISLAND Day trip to Olumwa Island by canoe, if weather allows. Overnight Sibonai
Day 26	NORMANBY ISLAND / ALOTAU Return boat trip from Sewa Bay to Alotau. Overnight Napatana Lodge.
Day 27	ALOTAU / PORT MORESBY Morning or afternoon flight from Alotau to Port Moresby. At leisure in Port Moresby: Ecotourism Melanesia can provide transport to take you artifact shopping or sightseeing on request. Overnight hotel.
Day 28	PORT MORESBY Fly out of Papua New Guinea.

#### TOUR COST (rack rates valid till end 2007)

PER PERSON	4 pax, no FOC	5-9 pax, no FOC	10-16 pax, tour leader FOC
14 days	USD 5,184	USD 4,960	USD 4,996
21 days	USD 7,681	USD 6,944	USD 7,243
28 days	USD 9,981	USD 9,587	USD 9,191

#### TOUR INCLUSIONS (28 days):

- meet and greet at Port Moresby airport
- half-day tour of Port Moresby if time allows OR extra day trip to Varirata National Park if time allows
- four nights premier room accommodation at the Gateway Hotel in Port Moresby (or alternative), including full breakfast
- economy class domestic flights from Port Moresby to Kiunga, Tabubil to Mt Hagen, Kikori to Port Moresby, and Port Moresby to Alotau return
- scheduled, chartered or diverted flight from Goroka to Maimafu or Herowana in the Crater Mountain Wildlife Management Area
- chartered or diverted flight from Maimafu or Herowana to Kikori
- three nights camp-style accommodation and all meals at Ekame Wildlife Lodge, including water transfers
- services of a local guide at each destination throughout the tour, where possible this will be a trained birding guide
- 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 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

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- 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 local style lunch.
- road transfer from Haus Poroman Lodge to Goroka
- one night premier room accommodation at the Bird of Paradise Hotel, Goroka (or alternative) including full breakfast
- Goroka town tour
- three nights village guest house accommodation and camp-style meals at Maimafu or Herowana in the Crater Mountain Wildlife Management Area
- daily birding excursions in the Crater Mountain Wildlife Management Area
- four nights motel-style accommodation and set-menu meals at Delta Lodge, Kikori
- daily motorised dingy transport for birding trips around Kikori, including boat crew and additional guides
- full day excursion to Varirata National Park on Day 20
- Alotau sightseeing tour if time allows
- two nights private bungalow accommodation and set-menu meals at Napatana Lodge, Alotau (or alternative) including airport transfers
- boat charter from Alotau to Sewa Bay (Normanby Island) and return
- five nights village accommodation and bush camping at Sewa Bay / Sibonai including camp rations and equipment carried from Alotau by local tour escort
- village guides and carriers at Sewa Bay
- paddle canoes or motorised canoes for day trip from Sibonai to Olumwa Island on Day 25
- transport available on request in Port Moresby on Day 27
- Port Moresby airport transfer on departure
- PNG country map
- Ecotourism Melanesia souvenir birding polo shirt

#### TOUR EXCLUSIONS:

international airfares  
 bottled water (BYO or ask 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 travelling days (purchase snacks from shops en route)  
 lunches and dinners at hotels except where stated  
 other meals not stated in itinerary as included

#### TOUR NOTES:

1. The general terms and conditions applicable to this tour are those specified on the invoice we issue to you or your travel agent and on the Booking page of our website.
2. All accommodation on this Birdwatching tour is twin-share and no single supplement is available. Accommodation sharing arrangements are at the discretion of Ecotourism Melanesia after taking pax preferences into account.
3. All arrangements in this tour are backed up by contingency plans in case of inclement weather or logistical problems preventing the scheduled itinerary from progressing.
4. All arrangements in this tour include emergency management plan with emergency communication facilities available at each destination and provision for medical evacuation at client's (or client's insurer's) expense.
5. 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 bird watching activities will be provided where possible, but claims for partial refunds based on quality of substitute activities will not be entertained.
6. This tour involves some hiking of moderate difficulty and requires a reasonable level of physical fitness.

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