



Ecotourism Melanesia

Discover Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

EM103 **MAINLAND NEW GUINEA NATURE TOUR** - 14 or 21 days **FOR GROUPS** (4-16 people)
Port Moresby, Lae, Kamiali Wildlife Management Area, Madang, Wewak, Kairiru Island, Upper Sepik,
Mt Hagen, Goroka (14 days)
+ Kikori/Sirebi River, Tufi (21 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 short tour of Port Moresby including national museum and botanical gardens as time allows.

OR If you are arriving on the early morning flight from Singapore, a day trip to Varirata National Park (45 minutes drive from the city) will be arranged for today.

Overnight hotel (includes breakfast).

Day 2

PORT MORESBY / LAE / KAMIALI

Early morning flight to Lae. A tour bus will transfer the group from the airport (located at Nadzab about 45 minutes from town) to the main waterfront where you will board a launch for the journey to Kamiali. The boat ride takes about 3 hours and stops may be made at the pretty little coastal township of Salamaua and various villages along the way. On arrival at Kamiali, check in at Kamiali Guest House and have lunch. (Alternatively, on request a stop can be made at Salamaua for an historical tour and barbeque lunch, arriving at Kamiali mid-afternoon).

The Kamiali Wildlife Management Area is a 47,000 hectare expanse of coastal, tidal wetlands and rainforest habitats in the Salamaua district 70km south of Lae. The WMA and associated guest house are managed by the local community with the assistance of the Village Development Trust, a non-government organisation.

This afternoon, you will be taken for a short ride by outrigger canoe to Lababia Village, located on Lababia Island just offshore. The village community here are the custodians of the wildlife management area. View a sago making demonstration, see how bilums and mats are woven by the women. Handicrafts are available for purchase. In the evening, a guided night spotlight forest walk in the forest to hear insects and bird calls and view other animal life especially nocturnal tree kangaroos, or view leatherback turtle nesting along the beach (Dec-Feb). Overnight Kamiali Guest House (includes meals).

Day 3

KAMIALI

Begin today with an early morning rainforest walk along the David Suzuki Trail for viewing bird of paradise, parrots, hornbills, wild ducks. After breakfast visit a freshwater eel farm in a nearby village and take another ride to Lababia Island to view frigate bird nesting sites and indulge in a little reef snorkelling or hand-line fishing. After lunch back at the guest house, the afternoon is free for

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you to photograph exotic orchids and birdwing butterflies in the guest house gardens, see local WW2 relics, enjoy some swimming or more snorkelling, take a rainforest walk, or sit on the beach. In the evening you will be paddled quietly up the Tabare River to view nocturnal river life by spotlight. Overnight Kamiali Guest House.

Day 4

KAMIALI

Before breakfast, take an early morning canoe transfer to a nearby wetlands habitat for wildlife watching and some ecology education. Later, a walk along the beach to turtle nesting sites. After lunch, a daylight safari by motorised canoe up the Tabare River. Further upstream from the sea, where the water is no longer saline, the river is overhung by jungle and more diverse terrestrial flora and fauna is evident. Overnight Kamiali Guest House.

Day 5

KAMIALI / LAE / MADANG

An early morning launch transfer from Kamiali brings you back to Lae. Your tour bus will meet you on arrival and transfer you straight to "The Rainforest Habitat", a large walk-through aviary in a lush tropical garden setting located at the local university campus, which houses the largest collection of captive birds of paradise in the world as well as a variety of native animals including Morobe tree kangaroos. Lunch can be purchased in the café at the Habitat, or a lunch stop will be made at the Melanesian Hotel.

After lunch, transfer to Lae airport to board Airlink's afternoon flight to Madang departing at 1440 (your bags will be checked in ahead of time for your convenience). Madang Resort Hotel courtesy bus will meet your group at Madang airport and transfer you to the hotel. After check in, you will have some time in the late afternoon to explore the waterfront market and handicraft stalls in this friendly tourist town. Overnight Madang Resort Hotel (includes breakfast only).

Day 6

MADANG

Today's full day nature tour with packed lunch includes a short harbour cruise, and a visit to the Balek Wildlife Sanctuary and Sulfur Caves where the Pierce Brosnan movie *Robinson Crusoe* was shot and a local Papua New Guinean actor William Takaku played the part of Man Friday. Other destinations today include the Suyau Lookout, the Omuru Flying Fox Cave and the historical Alexishafen Mission. Overnight Madang Resort Hotel.

Day 7

MADANG

Today you have a choice between a scuba diving excursion with Niugini Diving Adventures (2 dives) or a day trip to Ohu Village. Either activity is included in your tour.

The diving excursion requires you to have your scuba diving ticket, and current insurance. You will probably join other divers for the day and the dive locations will be selected by the dive master. The boat returns to the hotel for you to have lunch (pay as you go).

The trip to Ohu Village will give you the opportunity to visit a Madang village, see a butterfly conservation project and catch and release giant birdwing butterflies, go for a bush walk to the 100m Dumeh waterfall for a cool swim, and enjoy a village-style lunch.

Overnight Madang Resort Hotel.

Day 8

MADANG / WEWAK / KAIRIRU ISLAND

This morning an Airlink flight will uplift you from Madang to Wewak. At Wewak

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airport your group will be met by a local guide and you will take a short walk across the road from the airport to the beach where a launch will be waiting to transfer you across to Kairiru Island. Kairiru Island is part of the Wewak Islands group located about 45 minutes boat ride offshore from Wewak town. On arrival, check in at Polen Guest House, a genuine village-based ecotourism guest house where you will be overwhelmed by the warm hospitality of the local community that operates the 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 - an ecotourism paradise which many visitors say is the highlight of their visit to PNG. 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 9

KAIRIRU ISLAND
At Kairiru Island

Day 10

KAIRIRU ISLAND / WEWAK / AMBUNTI

Early morning water transfer back to Wewak, dropoff on the beach next to the airport and walk across the road to check in for your 0900 charter flight to Ambunti, a small government station on the Upper Sepik River. Ambunti is the gateway to the Upper Sepik which is undeveloped and rarely visited by any outsiders at all, let alone tourists. From your base at Ambunti Lodge the tour party will be taken on daily expeditions by motorised canoe to Upper Sepik riverside villages.

After checking in the modest but comfortable Ambunti Lodge your first canoe expedition this afternoon will be upstream to the villages of Yambon, Waskuk and/or Yessan. For lunch today you can purchase fresh fruit, baked sago and barbequed fish from little markets in the villages you visit. You will be enthusiastically welcomed in each village and have the opportunity to buy genuine cultural artifacts which villagers may present for sale. The cultural art as Waskuk is particularly unique in style.

Overnight Ambunti Lodge (includes dinner and breakfast)

Day 11

AMBUNTI

Expedition to Wagu Lakes. Overnight Ambunti Lodge (includes dinner and breakfast)

Day 12

AMBUNTI / MT HAGEN

Expedition downstream to Avatip Lagoon. Bird watching is available both here and at Wagu Lakes. Local villagers will show you nesting sites and you will be able to drift quietly in a dugout canoe on your own with a guide to observe and photograph aquatic and riverbank birds at close range. (Yes, there are crocodiles as well). However, do allow for at least one half day of heavy rain during your Sepik River visit so activities such as bird watching and village expeditions (and reading a novel in your room at the lodge as the rain pelts down overhead) will be interchangeable and flexible as the weather dictates.

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At 1500 a charter aircraft (Twin Otter) will arrive at Ambunti airstrip and uplift your group directly to Mt Hagen, arriving 1600. You will be transferred to the Highlander Hotel for overnight (includes breakfast only)

Day 13

MT HAGEN / GOROKA

After breakfast a bus and guide will call at the hotel for your group, to drive you to Goroka, a very scenic road trip of about 6 hours in duration that is a not-to-be-missed experience in PNG. This will start with a drive around Mt Hagen town and through coffee and tea plantations up the Waghi Valley to Minj, where a half hour stop will be made at the Minj Orchid Lodge to view the beautiful range of cultivated orchids and enjoy refreshments. At Minj you cross the border into the Chimbu Province with its spectacular mountain scenery as PNG's tallest mountain Mt Wilhelm passes you on the left hand side. The final stretch is the descent through the verdant Daulo Pass, a biodiversity hotspot, to the Asaro Valley and Goroka town. For lunch today you can purchase local fruit and cooked food sold at roadside stalls, or takeaway food from shops en route.

Overnight Bird of Paradise Hotel, Goroka (includes breakfast).

[If your tour is terminating on Day 14 with a flight to Singapore, you will overnight Goroka tonight and fly to Port Moresby on the morning of Day 14. If you are due to fly out to Brisbane or Cairns on the morning of Day 14, we will ensure that your road trip from Mt Hagen arrives in Goroka in time for you to check in for the late afternoon flight from Goroka to Port Moresby, then overnight Port Moresby and fly out to Australia in the morning of Day 14].

Day 14

GOROKA / HIGHLANDS VILLAGE EXPERIENCE

After breakfast your local guide will drive you out of Goroka to Mehavena village (or one of the other local villages near Goroka that host eco-tourists - Lupipi, Daulo Verulu, or Onkinofi - depending on weather, availability, and the condition of the access roads).

The village community you will visit have organised themselves to show visitors their unique natural environment. This village experience is as real as it gets in Papua New Guinea and you will gain a true feel for the people's reliance on the natural environment for their food, shelter and livelihood.

On arrival you will be allocated to a village guide to look after you during your one day 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 !

For lunch the village people will prepare a traditional highlands mumu feast with a vast array of vegetables plus chicken and wild pork, all wrapped in leaves and cooked underground in a hot earth "oven".

During the afternoon you'll be taken for a nature hike in the vicinity of the village, which is largely savannah and light forest. Your village 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 demand for certain plants with medicinal properties). Late in the afternoon you will leave your new-found village friends and return

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to Goroka. [However, overnighing in the village guest house is an option if you prefer as there is a neatly constructed village guest house (highlands round house) with a central fireplace and cosy sleeping rooms kitted with beds and blankets ... camp style but comfortable, and a clean sit-down toilet is available out back. Village-style dinner and breakfast will be provided.] Overnight Bird of Paradise Hotel, Goroka (includes breakfast).

Day 15

GOROKA / KIKORI

After retrieving any members of the group who have overnighed at the village, your group will check in at Goroka airport at 9.30am for your charter flight to Kikori in the Papuan Gulf.

Kikori is an emerging ecotourism destination unique in Papua New Guinea. The Kikori River delta is second only in size to the Fly River delta and consists of a myriad of small mud, grass and mangrove islands separated by slow-moving fingers of outflow from the Kikori River, which has its origins in the Southern Highlands. The river delta is a supercharged nursery for all manner of fish, crabs, birds and crocodiles. Fishing in quiet backwaters for barramundi, mangrove jack and black bass is superb here and edible mud crabs abound. With so much fish available in the shallow water, there is a strong population of large predatory birds.

After checking in at Delta Lodge and having lunch, you'll be taken on an exploratory tour of the Kikori delta area by motor boat for the full afternoon. Overnight Delta Lodge, Kikori (includes meals).

Day 16

KIKORI

Regular program: Today your group will be offered a selection of activities of interest including walking a guided nature trail through a variety of terrestrial habitats, wildlife watching (birds or animals of interest to you, by boat or on foot), exploring mangrove labyrinths by boat, barramundi fishing by hand line (no catch-and-release here: you get delicious barramundi fillet on a plate for dinner!), or an African Queen-style boat safari up the Tiviri River, a navigable tributary of the Kikori River, complete with overhanging vines and mysterious scuttling in the undergrowth. A combination of activities may be available if time allows, and boat trips will only proceed if more than half the group is interested in going.

Overnight Delta Lodge, Kikori

***Alternative program:** An alternative activity, if your group is interested and doesn't mind a little camping and possibly getting very wet, is an overnight expedition up the Sirebi River. The Sirebi River is a biodiversity hotspot in a remote area with only a very few isolated villages. Your open motor boat will travel up the Kikori River for about one hour to Waira village which is located at the confluence of the Kikori and Sirebi rivers. Turning off to the right into the Sirebi River your motor boat will take you far upstream to a point where lowland savannah gives way to verdant rainforest which lines the high river banks. Looking up from your vantage point in the middle of the river you are able to observe a rich kaleidoscope of flora and fauna which are rarely disturbed by the presence of humans, guaranteed to be unlike anything you have ever seen before. The Sirebi River is one of the last untouched river environments in Papua New Guinea and Ecotourism Melanesia is the only tour company to have made any moves to bring visitors into this area.*

Upstream on the Sirebi River there is a small village where you will camp overnight in a hut. Mosquito nets, sleeping mats and camp rations will be carried up with you in the boat and your guides will arrange with village people to

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provide some fresh vegetables and fish to eat. The people in this area are very isolated and you can expect some of the children to cry as they will not have seen white people before.

You can expect at least an hour or two of heavy rain during your trip up the Sirebi River and despite all efforts to avoid it with umbrellas and tarpaulins in the uncovered boat you are likely to get very wet. However the weather is tropical warm so you won't feel cold and on arrival at the village where you will overnight you can change into a set of dry clothes that you have brought with you and hopefully kept watertight, and dry your wet clothes by the fire. This Sirebi River expedition is only for very keen visitors who won't complain about the long boat trip and camp-style conditions, and must be specifically requested at the time of booking this tour.

Day 17

KIKORI / PORT MORESBY

Regular program: Morning nature tours at Kikori (remember yesterday's activities may have been limited or incomplete due to rain), followed by lunch back at Delta Lodge.

Alternative program: *Breaking your Sirebi River camp at 6am, a fast boat run downstream (possibly in pouring rain) will bring you back to Delta Lodge, Kikori, by late morning, allowing time for a shower, change of clothes and lunch before proceeding to the airstrip for the scheduled afternoon flight to Port Moresby.*

In the afternoon, you will board a scheduled flight from Kikori to Port Moresby and overnight hotel (includes breakfast only).

Day 18

PORT MORESBY / TUFU

Morning scheduled or charter flight from Port Moresby to Tufu. From Tufu airstrip it is a short walk to check in at Tufu Dive Resort. This boutique dive resort is the only conventional accommodation available at Tufu and serves as a base for a variety of water-based activities including swimming, snorkelling, fishing and kayaking (and scuba diving at extra cost if you are a qualified diver with current insurance) in the magnificent fjords around Tufu. After a water tour of the fjords nearest Tufu in the morning, in the afternoon you'll have a choice of water activities listed above or, for those of us who prefer the dry land, a guide will lead you on a scenic hike along the fjord spurs (ie the ridges between the fjords) around the perimeter of Tufu Harbour (the fjord closest to the dive resort) passing through idyllic little villages with beautiful tropical gardens teeming with birdwing butterflies, to Feiaba Bay from where you'll be picked up by boat and returned to the resort. In the evening, a spectacular full scale singing will be performed under the stars at nearby Kofure Village. Overnight Tufu Dive Resort (includes all meals).

Day 19

TUFU

Today you may choose between more water activities provided by Tufu Dive Resort or a full day village visit to the trio of villages on the coast south of Tufu: Siu, Jebo and Orotobaba, about 30 minutes by boat. These villages are some of the most beautiful spots in Papua New Guinea and the people enthusiastically welcome visitors in their traditional dress. Your tour group may split into smaller groups to undertake activities of interest at the villages including village cultural tour, bushwalk with birdwatching, beach walking and swimming, or paddling an outrigger canoe with your guide up a nearby fjord to a scenic waterfall. Tonight you have the option of overnighing in a village

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guest house at Siu, Jebo or Orotoaba, or returning to the dive resort (includes all meals). Night fishing under the stars in outrigger canoes (for reef fish or lobster) is an extra-special activity offered at these villages.

Day 20

TUFI / PORT MORESBY

A third day of nature-based activities at Tufi (allow for some rain on the previous two days). Today choose between water activities or a beachcombing expedition around the fjords, ex-Jebo beach if you have slept at the village guest house, or ex-Tufi Dive Resort around Kupari Point to Maclaren Fjord. After lunch the group will re-unite at Tufi Dive Resort and prepare for uplift by a charter aircraft from Tufi airstrip to Port Moresby at 1600 hrs. Overnight hotel in Port Moresby (includes breakfast only).

Day 21

PORT MORESBY

Fly out of Papua New Guinea

[NB If your group is flying out on the Singapore flight in the afternoon of Day 21, you have the option of spending an extra night at Tufi (Day 20) and returning to Port Moresby in the morning of Day 21 with plenty of time to connect on to the Singapore flight.]

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
21 days	USD 9,689	USD 9,789	USD 8,565
14 days*	USD 5,603	USD 6,417	USD 5,302

*Fly from Goroka to Port Moresby on Day 13, overnight hotel and fly out of PNG on Day 14.

TOUR INCLUSIONS (21 days):

- meet and greet at Port Moresby airport
- local guides at each destination
- short tour of Port Moresby if time allows OR day trip to Varirata National Park if time allows
- three nights premier room accommodation at the Gateway Hotel, Port Moresby (or alternative) with full breakfast
- economy class scheduled flights from Port Moresby to Lae, Lae to Madang, Madang to Wewak, Kikori to Port Moresby (OR Goroka to Port Moresby for 14 days tour)
- charter flights from Wewak to Ambunti, Ambunti to Mt Hagen, Goroka to Kikori, Port Moresby to Tufi and return
- Lae airport transfers
- return boat transfers to Kamiali with optional stopover for lunch at Salamaua
- three nights hostel-style accommodation and meals at Kamiali Guest House
- daily and nightly nature tours at Kamiali
- visit to the Rainforest Habitat in Lae
- three nights deluxe accommodation at Madang resort Hotel with breakfast only
- full day sightseeing tour of Madang including harbour cruise.
- Madang scuba diving excursion with 2 dives (lunch not included) OR day trip to Ohu Village with lunch
- return boat transfers from Wewak to Kairiru Island
- two nights village guest house accommodation at Polen Guest House, Kairiru Island, including local-style meals
- two days nature tours and cultural entertainment at Kairiru Island
- two nights hostel-style accommodation and meals at Ambunti Lodge

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- two and a half days of canoe expeditions along the Upper Sepik River ex-Ambunti
- one night premier room accommodation at the Highlander Hotel, Mt Hagen with full breakfast
- road transfer from Mt Hagen to Goroka with driver and guide, including refreshment stop at Minj Orchid Lodge
- two nights premier room accommodation at the Bird of Paradise Hotel, Goroka with full breakfast
- one day highlands village experience at Mehenave village (or alternative) ex-Goroka (with optional overnight at village)
- two nights hostel-style accommodation and meals at Delta Lodge, Kikori
- afternoon boat tour of Kikori delta locality
- one and a half days nature tours around Kikori including motor boat and guides (OR overnight expedition up the Sirebi River)
- two nights accommodation and meals at Tufi Dive Resort (or three nights if Day 20 is an extra overnight at Tufi)
- morning tour of fjords ex-Tufi Dive Resort on Day 18
- afternoon water or land activities ex-Tufi Dive Resort on Day 18 (for scuba diving pay extra by cash or credit card at the resort)
- evening singing at Kofure village, Tufi on Day 18
- full day water or land activities ex-Tufi Dive Resort or ex-village on Day 19
- full day water or land activities ex-Tufi Dive Resort or ex-village on Day 20
- boat transfers around Tufi as indicated
- optional overnight village guest house with local style meals

TOUR 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 and between-meal snacks

lunches on travelling days (purchase snacks from shops en route)

lunches and dinners at hotels except where specified

other meals except where stated as included

scuba diving at Tufi

TOUR 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. Road transfers along major highways (eg Goroka to Lae) may be provided by dedicated vehicle with driver or by public bus accompanied by a guide, at our discretion. Likewise water transfers between Lae and dedicated boat or a seat on a boat providing public transport may provide Kamiali.

3. 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.

4. Accommodation at hotels and lodges on this tour is booked on a twin share basis. For group-of-three a combination of one twin room and one single room is normally booked. Triple share may be necessary in some circumstances where two rooms with the required configuration are not available. Single supplement is not available on this tour.

5. All accommodation quoted is twin-share. On payment of a single supplement of an additional 10% of the per person rate, we will arrange single occupancy wherever single rooms are available. No partial refund on the

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single supplement is claimable for destinations where single occupancy is not available or not provided, ie we will do our best but no promises and no refunds.

6. This tour itinerary covers a lot of ground on quite a tight schedule in order to maximise your tour experience within the time available. Your itinerary is meticulously planned based on our comprehensive local knowledge, and backup arrangements are in place for each component of your tour - for example, if the airstrip at Ambunti is closed due to wet weather which prevents your charter aircraft from flying in, alternative road transport by four wheel drive vehicle to the road head at Pagwi will be provided instead, with boat transfers for the last stretch from Pagwi to Ambunti. Or, a Lower Sepik River experience will be provided as an alternative component of the tour, with road transfers to and from Angoram and canoe expeditions to Lower Sepik villages. You can expect that on average during a 14-day tour at least one component of the itinerary will have to be re-arranged due to wet weather, unserviceable aircraft or vehicles, washed out bridges, local shortage of outboard fuel, or another such logistical problem. Papua New Guinea is a developing country where infrastructure is limited and transport services are tenuous. We excel at making things happen in "the Land of the Unexpected" but we state clearly here that logistical problems beyond our control do occur from time to time during our tours and you should be prepared for this by being patient if and when a tour hiccup occurs while we endeavour to put alternative arrangements in place. Occasionally alternative arrangements may not be possible and you may spend a couple of days longer at one destination and leapfrog the next destination if it cannot be provided and go straight to the next. You accept the risk that this may occur without recourse for recompense or refund from Ecotourism Melanesia or your tour booking agent, although you may be able to claim some compensation from your travel insurer.

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