



# Ecotourism Melanesia

Discover Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

## ITINERARY FOR TOUR EM20 - **PAPUAN GULF ART TOUR** - 11 days 10 nights

This itinerary takes visitors to some of the seldom-visited cradles of Papuan Gulf art. The culture and artifacts of the Papuan Gulf was first documented by Australian photographer Frank Hurley in the 1920s and since then many samples of Papuan art have made their way around the world but few connoisseurs visit the Gulf itself. This tour patronises a milk run flight operated by Airlines PNG that drops regularly into the Gulf airstrips of Daru, Balimo, Kikori, Baimuru and Kerema. However the flights are not daily and this itinerary only "works" when commenced on any Monday.

### Day 1: Monday

Airlines PNG Dash 8 flight from Port Moresby to Daru 0845/0955. You will be met on arrival by staff from the Tawo'o Hotel and transferred to the hotel for check in. Today, the hotel will arrange for you a visit to a village cultural centre where you will view a demonstration of traditional dancing and local artifacts of the Kiwai culture of the Fly River Delta which is very similar to the culture of the Torres Strait on the Australian side of the border. Overnight Tawo'o Hotel, Daru.

### Day 2: Tuesday

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport to check in for Airlines PNG flight CG322 from Daru to Balimo 1010/1100 (via Awaba). On arrival at Balimo you will be met by a local guest house operator and transferred to your accommodation. For the next 3 nights your guest house operator will be your host in showcasing the unique totem-based culture of the Gogodala tribe of the Balimo area. This river delta area is a water-based society and most transport to villages etc will be by canoe. Overnight guest house, Balimo.

### Day 3: Wednesday

Overnight guest house, Balimo.

### Day 4: Thursday

Overnight guest house, Balimo.

### Day 5: Friday

Today you will be uplifted by Airlines PNG flight CG369 from Balimo to Baimuru 1150/1340. At Baimuru you will be met and transferred to your guest house. The rest of the day will be spent at the guest house as it will be too late to commence a village excursion. Overnight guest house, Baimuru.

### Day 6: Saturday

Excursion by motor canoe with guide to artifacts villages in the Baimuru area. Overnight guest house, Balimo (or village).

### Day 7: Sunday

Excursion by motor canoe with guide to artifacts villages in the Baimuru area. Overnight guest house, Balimo (or village).

### Day 8: Monday

Airlines PNG flight CG366 Baimuru to Kikori 1040/1100. (This is back-tracking but the only way the itinerary can work). At Kikori you will be met and transferred to your guest house. Afternoon wildlife eco-tour of Kikori Delta area by boat. Overnight guest house, Kikori.

### Day 9: Tuesday

Excursion by motor canoe with guide to artifacts villages in the Kikori area. Overnight guest house, Kikori.

### Day 10: Wednesday

Airlines PNG flight CG371 Kikori to Kerema 1425/1505. Check in at Hotel Kerema. The next 24 hours will be spent exploring Kerema town and visiting the local cultural centre which has displays of artifacts from all parts of the Gulf. A guide from the hotel will accompany you.

## Day 11: Thursday

Airlines PNG flight CG361 from Kerema to Port Moresby 1705/1800.

### TOUR NOTES

1. **Papuan Gulf art** was first documented by Australian photographer and cinematographer Frank Hurley in the 1920s. Digitised copies of his works are available on the website of the National Library of Australia's negative collection at <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.pic-an11546686>>. To view the images from "Pearls and Savages", go to <<http://www.nla.gov.au/catalogue/pictures/>> and search for the string as title/creator.
2. **Warnings.** The Papuan Gulf is a remote area where there are few hospitals and the availability of medical care is very limited. Medical evacuations may be difficult to arrange. The Gulf area is renowned for mosquitoes: be prepared with repellent and anti-malaria medication. Some activities on this tour require water travel in native canoes that do not carry safety equipment. Individuals who cannot swim are advised against taking this tour. This tour involves light hiking requiring an average level of fitness.
3. **Tour variation.** Due to prevailing weather conditions there is a 50% chance that some aspects of this tour will have to be modified at short notice. Airfields in this area are mainly grass strips which cannot be used after heavy rains. Rains may also cause localised flooding in some riverside villages rendering them unsuitable for visitors. Accordingly this tour may be modified at short notice by (i) rearranging the specified destinations, (ii) substituting different villages not specified in the above itinerary. Such variations to the advertised itinerary will be at our discretion in accordance with airlines operations, safety considerations and operational limitations.
4. **Meals** in rural guest houses will be based on:
  - breakfast: tea with fresh scones and fresh fruit, sago cakes
  - lunch: rice/sweet potato with greens and fish simmered in coconut milk
  - dinner: baked vegetables and fish wrapped in leaves and cooked under hot stonesThe food that will be offered to you at the guest houses will be freshly harvested and cooked vegetables, freshwater or saltwater fish, possibly some chicken or pork or crocodile tail - take it or leave it ! You are welcome to bring additional favourite food items with you - hosts will not be offended. Dehydrated packet pasta, tinned meats, baked beans etc that you bring with you can be prepared for you by your hosts and served with your meal. A variety of food items is available from supermarkets in Port Moresby.
5. **Drinking water** in villages is taken from clean springs and generally safe to drink. However to be sure you may wish to take your own limited stock of bottled water with you from Port Moresby. Otherwise ask your hosts to boil and cool water for you to drink, or ask for green coconut water to drink as this is sterile (and yummy).
6. **Climate.** The Gulf area is always hot and humid. Only rainfall provides some variation in the weather. We suggest you pack several changes of all-cotton quick-drying clothes, and a battery operated personal fan for relief, especially to help you sleep at night.
7. **Personal gear.** For this tour visitors may wish to pack personal items in garbage bags or ziplock plastic bags to protect them from the wet, especially your camera. Personal gear includes three or four changes of clothes, light hiking boots (don't go overboard - it isn't Mt Everest) with 4 pairs of cotton/wool blend hiking socks, a pair of light tracksuit pants or similar to sleep in, hat with wide brim to keep sun and rain off your face, waterproof torch with spare batteries, rain poncho, quick-dry towel, your favourite soap in a leak-proof container, two rolls of your favourite toilet paper, a one-litre water container to carry with you, and your personal first aid kit. Your personal first aid kit will contain Band-aids, blister dressings, antibiotic cream for cuts and scratches, antimalarial tablets, anti-diarrhoea tablets, paracetamol, Deep Heat or other muscle linament and the all-important insect repellent (some visitors say "Rid" is more effective). For sleeping, a mat or mattress and mosquito net are provided at each destination in this tour but you should bring your own tropical sleeping bag, empty quilt cover or a bed liner of the type used at youth hostels.

### TOUR INCLUSIONS

- airfares Port Moresby - Daru - Balimo - Baimuru - Kikori - Kerema - Port Moresby
- one night accommodation at Tawo'o Hotel in Daru with lunch, dinner and breakfast
- three nights guest house accommodation at Balimo including dinner and breakfast
- three nights guest house accommodation at Baimuru including dinner and breakfast
- two nights guest house accommodation at Kikori including dinner and breakfast
- one night accommodation at Hotel Kerema including dinner and breakfast
- motor canoe and/or paddle canoe transport to artifact villages
- daily English speaking guide
- village access and sightseeing fees

### TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- international airfare
- bar drinks, tips, souvenirs, personal items
- bottled water and first aid requirements

- lunches (generally, you will be able to purchase fruit and cooked fruits from village markets everywhere - the locals will appreciate your custom)
- excess baggage charges