

Reef and Rainforest Tours



Goroka Classic Show Tour Papua New Guinea

Group Tour - Led by Local Guides

09 - 21 September 2020



PNG Goroka Classic Show Group Tour

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

The Goroka Classic Show Tour is an unescorted 13 days /12 night program. This Classic tour begins in Mount Hagen the upper Wahgi Valley - a valley with some of the oldest evidence of agriculture in the world. Spending a night at the resplendent Rondon Ridge in a valley that was unknown to the outside world until the mid-1930s when the Leahy brothers were prospecting for gold. After spending one night at Rondon Ridge, you will then fly by light aircraft to Karawari and transferred by river boat to Karawari Lodge which is in the Sepik Region. After spending a night at Karawari Lodge you will be transferred by jet boat to Sepik Spirit which is also located in the Sepik Region to explore the waterways of the Karawari River and the Blackwater Lakes. Spend three nights onboard the Sepik Spirit which is the ultimate 'floating lodge' for the adventurer who desires all the comforts of civilization on the Karawari River. You fly to Lake Murray Lodge in the Western Province You will learn about the amazing ecology, culture and history of this remote corner of planet earth and also have the opportunity to look for our own resident "Loch Ness" monster. From Lake Murray your journey takes you back to the Highlands for a night at Rondon Ridge before going into Goroka to attend the famous two day Goroka Cultural Show.

- 09 Sep Depart SINGAPORE on AIR NIUGINI flight to PORT MORESBY.
- 10 Sep Arrive PORT MORESBY. Met on arrival and assisted with connection to MOUNT HAGEN. Afternoon birding on the trails around the lodge, O/n RONDON RIDGE, (BLD)
- 11 Sep Charter flight to the SPEIK AREA. Transfer to KARAWARI LODGE. Day spent exploring the villages in the area. O/n KARAWARI LODGE, (BLD)
- 12 Sep Transfer to the MV Sepik Spirit. O/n M/V SEPIK SPIRIT, (BLD).
- 13 -14 Sep Full days spent exploring the waterways of the Sepik. O/n M/V SEPIK SPIRIT, (BLD).
- 15 Sep Charter flight to LAKE MURRAY. Half day tour. O/n LAKE MURRAY LODGE (BLD)
- 16 Sep Full Day Tour. Overnight: LAKE MURRAY LODGE (BLD)
- 17 Sep Charter flight to MOUNT HAGEN. Afternoon guided nature walk on the trails around the lodge. O/n RONDON RIDGE (BLD)
- 18 Sep Charter flight to GOROKA. Transfer to the hotel. O/n BIRD OF PARADISE HOTEL, (BLD).
- 19-20 Sep Two full day spent at the GOROKA Show. O/n BIRD OF PARADISE HOTEL, (BLD).
- 21 Sep Fly to PORT MORESBY. Met and assisted with connection to AIR NIUGINI flight to SINGAPORE.



Reef & Rainforest

GOROKA CLASSIC SHOW TOUR PAPUA NEW GUINEA GROUP TOUR 2020 DETAILED ITINERARY

09 Sep Depart SINGAPORE on AIR NIUGINI flight to PORT MORESBY.

10 Sep Arrive in PORT MORESBY. Met on arrival at the airport and assisted with connection to AIR NIUGINI flight to MOUNT HAGEN. Mount Hagen Town is in the upper Wahgi Valley - a valley with some of the oldest evidence of agriculture in the world. Met on arrival and transfer to the lodge. Afternoon guided nature walk of the trails around the lodge. O/n RONDON RIDGE, (D). RONDON RIDGE is located at 7100 feet on Kum Mountain. This location promises the visitor eternal spring weather and magnificent views of the Hagen Range, Mount Giluwe, the Sepik Divide, the Baiyer Gap and the Wahgi Valley.



Over 200 species of birds have been spotted in the forest surrounding the lodge, including 13 species of birds of paradise. Guests are accommodated in 12 units, each unit featuring 180 degree views, modern bathroom, electric blankets and continental quilts for the cool highland evenings. The Lodge features a main building housing the lounge, bar, dining room, conference centre and a cozy fire



(2).../ GOROKA CLASSIC GROUP TOUR, SEPTEMBER 2020

11 Sep

Morning pick up from the lodge and transfer to the airport. Catch charter flight to the SEPIK AREA. Met on arrival at the airstrip and transfer to Karawari Lodge. Karawari Lodge, poised on the ridge overlooking the river and jungle-clad Sepik Basin, is a world entirely unique. The real fascinations here are the people and how they live with the land and how it moulds their lives. They still live as they have for generations - rituals, sing-sings, story telling, food gathering and preparation. With Karawari's carefully planned cultural programme, daily visits in river boats are made to selected villages



allowing one the opportunity to be able to observe village life and customs, participate in typical daily activities and see re-enactments of traditional ceremonies. We will visit remote jungle waterways where we will find huge lichen and vine - festooned trees, masses of brilliant flame flowers, and a profusion of orchids. The soft dawn glimmers on these waterways and the vast plain erupts with a myriad of birds - the raucous jungle music. Dug-out canoes glide close by the river banks - stilt villages suddenly spring in sight along the flowing waters. Here we will see man and the environment as it has been for thousands of years. Perched upon an isolated ridge amid a huge expanse of lowland rainforest in one of the remotest parts of PNG, attractive Karawari Lodge can only be reached by boat, and light aircraft which land at its private airstrip. It is the highest grade accommodation in the area. O/n KARAWARI LODGE, (BLD)

Accommodation is in rustic yet comfortable cottages built of local bush materials. The main building, in the shape of a haus tambaran (spirit house of the local Arambak people) contains a dining area, lounge and bar. There is 220-volt electricity, hot water showers, ceiling fans, mosquito netted beds and veranda with a beautiful vista. (Contd.../)



(3).../ GOROKA CLASSIC GROUP TOUR, SEPTEMBER 2020

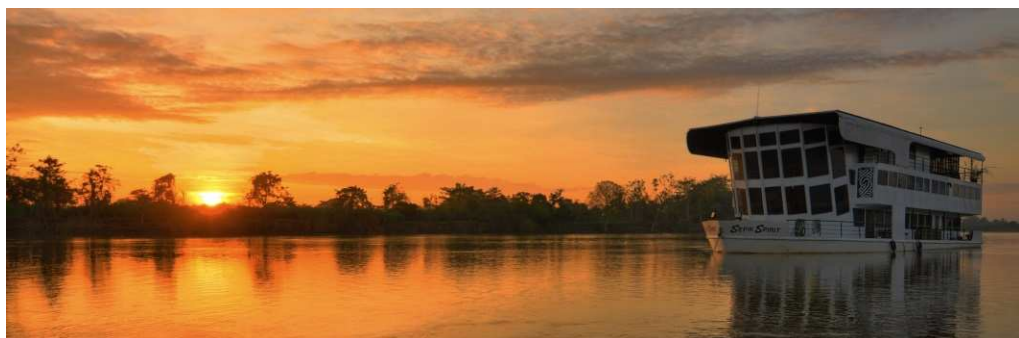
(Contd.../) The bird watching in the area is superb, much of it observable from the lodge. At least 229 species have been recorded in the area, including twelve-wire bird of paradise and various species of cockatoos, parrots, hornbills and water birds. The forest also contains a large diversity of orchids and amphibians.

12 Sep Morning pick up from the lodge and transfer by river boat to the air-conditioned comfort of the MV Sepik Spirit. The floating lodge is based in the village Kaminimbit. Inspired by the architecture of the "haus tambaran" or spirit house, the MV Sepik Spirit has a truly unique design. After lunch, enjoy an afternoon tour to Kaminimbit I, Kaminimbit II and Koroua village.



O/n M/V SEPIK SPIRIT, (BLD). The boat, built in 1989, is a "floating lodge", with full air-conditioning, dining room, lounge, bar and observation deck. The SEPIK RIVER is lined with villages whose arts and crafts are very impressive.

13-14 Sep Two full days are spent exploring the many waterways of the Sepik and its tributaries including visits to traditional Sepik Villages. The Sepik River is one of the largest rivers in the world - in terms of flow. Steeped in mystery, the people of the Sepik area have fascinated anthropologists like Margaret Mead since the area was first visited. Part of the mystery and attraction of the Sepik peoples is their amazing carvings, now famous the world over. O/n M/V SEPIK SPIRIT, (BLD).



15 Sep Transfer to Karawari airstrip and board charter flight over stunning mountain scenery and down to Lake Murray in the country's western lowlands. Transfer by boat to the lodge and have lunch and then proceed on with a half day tour. (Contd.../)

(4).../ GOROKA CLASSIC GROUP TOUR, SEPTEMBER 2020

(Contd.../) O/n LAKE MURRAY LODGE, FB. Located on the banks of Lake Murray – the largest lake in PNG, stretching over 2000 square kilometres – this new lodge features 12 wooden cabins raised on stilts along the shoreline. Each features king or twin beds, ceiling fans, modern en-suite bathrooms and covered verandas overlooking the lake. The lodge is 100% solar powered and provides 24hr electricity plus plenty of hot water.



The large main building comprises a large dining room, bar and wraparound veranda providing superb views over the lake. Opposite the lodge is a large expanse of lowland rainforest providing good opportunities for birdwatching with possible sightings including sulphur crested cockatoo, palm cockatoo, king bird-of-paradise, Raggiana bird-of-paradise and occasionally southern cassowary.



The lake itself is home to a large number of water birds including Australian Ibis, paradise kingfisher, white-bellied sea-eagle, magpie goose, green pygmy-goose and Australian pelican. There is excellent fishing here (catch and release) for black bass, barramundi and saratoga. (Contd.../)



(5).../ GOROKA CLASSIC GROUP TOUR, SEPTEMBER 2020

During your stay, you will also visit remote lakeside villages which see very few westerners: a great way to learn about their traditional way of life, culture and fishing techniques. At only around 70m in altitude, Lake Murray is particularly low lying so one should expect much warmer and humid conditions than the highlands. Wear loose fitting clothes and drink plenty of water.



16 Sep Full day cultural tour. Explore the waterways of Lake Murray and visit local villages in one of the remotest parts of Papua New Guinea. O/n LAKE MURRAY LODGE (BLD).

17 Sep Fly by charter from Lake Murray to Mount Hagen. Met on arrival and transfer to the lodge. Afternoon guided nature walk of the trails around the lodge. O/n RONDON RIDGE, (BLD). RONDON RIDGE is located at 7100 feet on Kum Mountain. This location promises the visitor eternal spring weather and magnificent views of the Hagen Range, Mount Giluwe, the Sepik Divide, the Baiyer Gap and the Wahji Valley.



18 Sep Transfer to the airstrip and catch charter flight to GOROKA, home of the famous and intriguing Asaro mudmen. Met on arrival and transfer to the hotel. O/n BIRD OF PARADISE HOTEL, (BLD) The hotel is part of the Coral Seas hotel chain and offers comfortable accommodation in en-suite rooms with air conditioning and satellite tv. Facilities at the hotel include a swimming pool, fitness center, restaurant and bar.



(6).../ GOROKA CLASSIC GROUP TOUR, SEPTEMBER 2020

19 Sep Spend the day at the Goroka show. Goroka Show is held in Eastern Highlands Province of PNG is held every September. It is a marvelous opportunity to gain an overview of PNG cultural diversity. The shows were first held in the 50's as a means of gathering together the different tribes and clans. At times there could be more than 40,000 painted warriors dancing to the beat of the Kundu drums. The scenario was an amazing success and grew from its original concept of a local get-together into a major tourist attraction. Amongst the performers are the legendary mud men of Asaro. Tribal folklore records that centuries ago the warriors of Asaro were defeated in a tribal fight "payback" raid, and, to make themselves look fierce in the process, covered their bodies with grey mud. According to legend, the ruse worked. Their enemies fled at the sight of these ghostly apparitions. The mud men recreated the drama at the Goroka show. O/n BIRD OF PARADISE HOTEL, (BLD).



20 Sep Another full day at the Goroka show. O/n BIRD OF PARADISE HOTEL, (BLD).

21 Sep Morning pick up from the hotel and transfer to the airport. Catch AIR NIUGINI flight to PORT MORESBY. Met on arrival at the airport and assisted with connection to AIR NIUGINI flight to SINGAPORE.



GOROKA CLASSIC SHOW TOUR, SPETEMBER 2020

<i>Departure Dates from Singapore</i>	<i>Adult Price</i>	<i>Single Supplement</i>
09 September 2020	£9,395	£760

NB: Single supplement is based on single room throughout, except at Bird of Paradise Hotel and on board the Sepik Spirit, which are on twin share basis.

NB: Maximum Group size is 18

Please call 01803 866965 if you have any queries, would like to secure your place on the tour, and/or if you would like to extend the tour to include other locations.



IMPORTANT NOTES TO ACCOMPANY THE ABOVE ITINERARY

NB: Visas are required for travel. If you wish to arrange your visa before arrival, please contact the PNG High Commission. It is currently possible to obtain a visa on arrival, free of charge.

NB: Baggage Restrictions – The aircraft used for transfers between lodges are small (5-8 seats only) with limited weight / space for luggage. Clients must restrict their luggage to 10 kgs plus a small carry-on hand or camera bag. The airlines are strict and will off-load excess weight. With only three flights per week between our lodges, this can mean no personal effects for several days.

NB: All itineraries are subject to change without notice to take into account possible airline flight schedule changes which can take place before departure date or during the tour, and other operational factors.

NB: The quoted price for the above itinerary is based on current airline fares (both international and domestic), fuel surcharges and flight taxes. These (and other tour costs) may be subject to unanticipated increases beyond our control at short notice, either before or after you have booked the tour, in which case the price would need to be revised accordingly.

NB: This tour involves some travel in remote areas. This adds to the adventure and increases the opportunity to enjoy a true wildlife experience. However, due to terrain, weather, road conditions, and other factors beyond our control, some elements of the tour may have to be altered. Times of some activities may need to be changed or even cancelled due to the conditions. If an activity is cancelled it will usually be replaced with an alternative activity that is more appropriate for the conditions. Advance notice will be given for any changes where possible, although at times changes may need to be made whilst the tour is in progress.

NB: Prices are based on a specific airlines and specific economy seating classes. Flights are booked on an ad hoc basis and so early booking is recommended to take advantage of the cheapest fare availability. Prices may rise if a more expensive seat class needs to be booked. Please call for information on price variations for using alternative airlines or for seat upgrades.

NB: It is a condition of booking that full travel insurance including Emergency Medical Repatriation is taken out by each person travelling. Your insurance cover must also include Missed Departure and/or Missed Flight Connection for both outbound and return flight sectors (such cover might be subject to a small additional premium – please confirm with your insurers). We ask that you send us a photo/fax/electronic copy of your policy document together with the 24hr medical assistance telephone number issued by your insurer.

NB: Clients must be aware that hotels, lodges and resorts as well as suppliers of tours and excursions used in this itinerary might not comply with European standards of health and safety. For instance, balconies may not be entirely child-safe or may be low in height, so always ensure children are kept away from balconies and do not go near them when intoxicated or unwell; swimming pools may not display depths, so never dive into a pool without checking depth first; vehicles may not always have safety belts fitted - contact our representatives if so, and refuse to travel; helmets may not be supplied on horse riding trips, in which case do not go on the ride; public areas might not be well lit, so take extra care and use a torch. Clients must be vigilant and take extra care for their own safety, as they may well be travelling to remote and primitive locations where high quality standards of safety may not be present.

NB: Before and after booking, clients must familiarise themselves with current UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) travel advisories so as to satisfy themselves as to the suitability of the destination(s) to be visited in this itinerary. All decisions relating to the tour will be based on UK FCO advisories, and not those of any other countries' governments. In the event of any emergency or other problem encountered in the destination, it is advisable if appropriate to contact the local UK Embassy, High Commission or Consulate for assistance. The FCO in London also has dedicated telephone call centres: Crisis Management Dept - 0207 008 5335 (during UK office hours), and Global Response Centre - 0207 008 1500 (out of UK office hours).

NB: Due to the small size of some charter aircraft and depending on the size of your group, it may be necessary to split the group when transferring by air to the next location.

NB: It is not possible to refund any services that appear in the itinerary that are not taken. It is also not possible to exchange services in the itinerary for other services. Services must be taken in the day that they appear and cannot be transferred to a different day.

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