

# Reef and Rainforest Tours



## **Goroka Classic Show Tour Papua New Guinea**

Group Tour - Led by Local Guides

05 – 20 September 2017

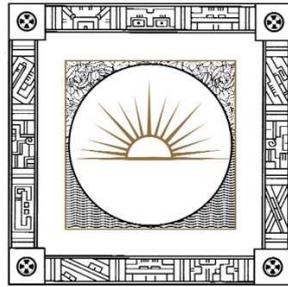


## **PNG Goroka Classic Show Group Tour**

### **ITINERARY IN BRIEF**

The Goroka Classic Show is an unescorted program. This Classic tour begins in the Tari Valley home of the flamboyant Huli, a colourful and proud people still largely living as their ancestors did. Ambua Lodge is high on the slopes of the Tari Valley with magnificent views of the valley below and the surrounding peaks. From Tari, you fly to the Sepik Region to explore the waterways of the Sepik River and its tributaries. Spend three nights on board the Sepik Spirit, which is the ultimate "floating lodge", for the adventurer who desires all the comforts of civilisation on the mighty Sepik River. From the Sepik Spirit you will fly to Mount Hagen, spending a night at the resplendent Rondon Ridge in a valley that was unknown to the outside world until 70 years ago. From Mount Hagen your journey takes you to Goroka to attend the two days famous Goroka Cultural Show.

- 05 Sep Depart LONDON HEATHROW.
- 06 Sep Arrive SINGAPORE and connect with your flight to PORT MORESBY.
- 07 Sep Arrive PORT MORESBY. Met on arrival and meet with group. Transfer to the hotel. O/n AIRWAYS HOTEL, (D).
- 08 Sep Fly to TARI. Tfr to the lodge. Afternoon exploring the area surrounding Ambua. O/n AMBUA LODGE, (BLD).
- 09-10 Sep A day of ecological and culturally based touring. O/n AMBUA LODGE, (BLD).
- 11 Sep Charter flight to the SEPIK AREA. Transfer to the MV Sepik Spirit. O/n M/V SEPIK SPIRIT, (BLD).
- 12-13 Sep Two full days spent exploring the waterways of the Sepik. O/n M/V SEPIK SPIRIT, (BLD).
- 14 Sep Charter flight to MOUNT HAGEN. Afternoon birding on the trails around the lodge, O/n RONDON RIDGE, (BLD)
- 15 Sep Charter flight to GOROKA. Transfer to the hotel. O/n BIRD OF PARADISE HOTEL, (BLD).
- 16-17 Sep Two full day spent at the GOROKA Show. O/n BIRD OF PARADISE HOTEL, (BLD).
- 18 Sep Fly to PORT MORESBY. Transfer to hotel. Afternoon sightseeing tour including National Parliament, national museum and National Botanic gardens. O/n AIRWAYS HOTEL, (D).
- 19 Sep Transfer to the airport and catch flight to SINGAPORE. On arrival, connect with flight to LONDON HEATHROW.
- 20 Sep Arrive LONDON HEATHROW.



## **GOROKA CLASSIC SHOW TOUR PAPUA NEW GUINEA GROUP TOUR 2017 DETAILED ITINERARY**

05 Sep Depart LONDON HEATHROW on BRITISH AIRWAYS flight BA11 at 2000 to SINGAPORE.

06 Sep Arrive SINGAPORE at 1605. On arrival, connect with AIR NIUGINI flight PX393 at 2020 to PORT MORESBY.

07 Sep Arrive in PORT MORESBY at 0455. Met on arrival at the airport and transfer to the hotel. Meet with the rest of the group. Rest of the day at leisure to recover from the journey and make use of the hotel facilities. O/n AIRWAYS HOTEL, (D). The hotel is very near the airport, and provides good facilities, including an open air bar and restaurant. NOTE: It is advisable to keep to the hotel compound, and not to venture into town at any time without an escort.

08 Sep Pick up from the hotel and transfer to the airport. Catch scheduled flight to TARI. Met on arrival at the airport and transfer to the lodge. Afternoon nature walk with guide along the trails surrounding the lodge, then head to TARI GAP for some birding, with the chance to observe up to 13 species of the birds of paradise. Birds of paradise display in the late afternoon, so you may be lucky to see the king of Saxony, Stephanie's Astrapia, Ribbontail Astrapia and the Sicklebill Bird of Paradise.



O/n AMBUA LODGE, FB. Set at 7000 ft in the Southern Highlands, the lodge is an inspired example of environmentally sensitive building, gaining it the 1991 Pacific Asia Travel Association Heritage Award, Guests are accommodated in 40 detached cabins built in highlands tradition. (Contd.../)

(2).../ GOROKA CLASSIC GROUP TOUR, SEPTEMBER 2017

(Contd.../) The main building contains the lounge, bar, dining room and a central fireplace (it can get cool at night – take light warm clothing). There is a small hydroelectric unit for the lodge's electricity needs. Visits to the renowned TARI GAP could reveal up to 10 species of birds of paradise alone, and the villages are inhabited by Huli Wigmen with their flamboyant costumes and dances.



09 Sep

Full day guided tour of local villages to meet the HULI WIGMEN. The great Tari Basin and the surrounding sloped are the home of the Huli Clans, one of the largest ethnic groups in the Southern Highlands and one of the most culturally intact, in all of PNG.

The Huli were only discovered in 1935 and were one of the last groups to come under government control. The men take great pride in their appearance, collecting birds of paradise feathers to decorate their wigs. During the tour you will have the opportunity to meet these proud people and learn about their traditions and way of life, which is still governed by their belief in ancestral spirits and sorcery. O/n AMBUA LODGE, FB.



10 Sep

Early morning visit to TARI GAP for some birding (if desired). Another full day tour of the area to learn more about the Huli. Perhaps visit a wig school where men spend 18 months growing their ceremonial wigs. O/n AMBUA LODGE, FB.

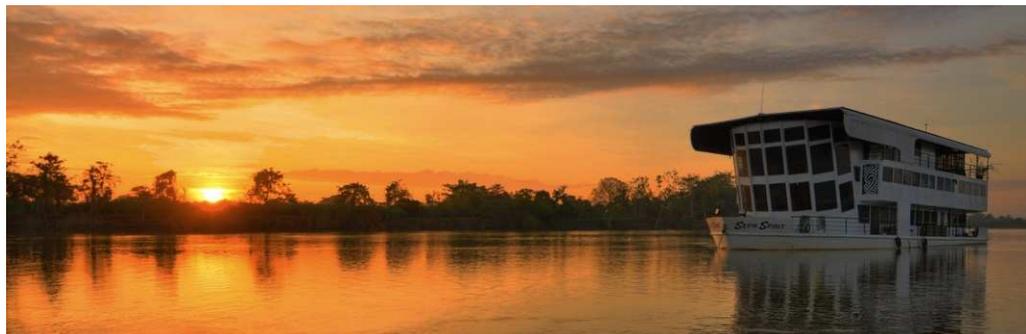
(3).../ GOROKA CLASSIC GROUP TOUR, SEPTEMBER 2017

11 Sep Morning pick up from the lodge and transfer to the airport. Catch charter flight to the SEPIK AREA. Met on arrival at Timbunke Airstrip 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.

12-13 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).



14 Sep Morning transfer to Karawari airstrip. Catch charter 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, (BLD). (Contd.../)

#### (4).../ GOROKA CLASSIC GROUP TOUR, SEPTEMBER 2017

(Contd.../) 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



15 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.



16 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).



(5).../ GOROKA CLASSIC GROUP TOUR, SEPTEMBER 2017

- 17 Sep Another full day at the Goroka show. O/n BIRD OF PARADISE HOTEL, (BLD).
- 18 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 transfer to the hotel. In the afternoon, enjoy a half day tour. The city sightseeing tour includes visits to the National Parliament (outside view only) and the National Museum. A visit is also made to the beautiful National Botanic Gardens situated in the spacious grounds of the University of Papua New Guinea. A stop will also be made at a PNG artefact shop with a huge selection of artifacts from around Papua New Guinea. Time permitting, driving through undulating bushland you arrive at the coastline.. You will also see Hanuabada village which means "big village" – it was one of the largest villages in Port Moresby until its destruction by fire during World War II. O/n AIRWAYS HOTEL, (BLD).
- 19 Sep Pick up from the hotel and transfer to the airport. Catch flight to SINAGPORE. Arrive SINGAPORE and connect with your flight back to LONDON HEATHROW.
- 20 Sep Arrive LONDON HEATHROW.



**GOROKA CLASSIC SHOW TOUR, SPETEMBER 2017**

<i>Departure Dates from London</i>	<i>Adult Price</i>	<i>Single Supplement</i>
05 September 2017	£9,167	£868

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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