

# Reef & Rainforest

## Reef and Rainforest Tours



### **Panorama Hagen Show Tour of Papua New Guinea**

Group Tour - Led by Local Guide

17 August – 01 September 2016



## **Panorama Hagen Show Tour of Papua New Guinea - Group Tour 2016**

### **ITINERARY IN BRIEF**

The tour begins with the famously vibrant Mount Hagen Show and continues on to some of Papua New Guinea's most iconic places, the Sepik River region and the Southern Highlands. The Hagen Show brings together sing sing groups from across Papua New Guinea, with the variety of cultures and groups represented in turn reflecting the diversity of Papua New Guinea's landscape. From Mount Hagen, journey through the Sepik region and on to Tari for some excellent birdwatching and the famous Tuli tribe. New for this year is a visit to Lake Murray to see remote fishing communities and explore the bird-filled rainforests of the lowlands.

17 Aug: Depart LONDON.

18 Aug: Connect in SINGAPORE.

19 Aug: Arrive PORT MORESBY and transfer to Airways Hotel. O/n AIRWAYS HOTEL, (D).

20 Aug: Fly to MOUNT HAGEN and transfer directly to the Mount Hagen Show. O/n RONDON RIDGE, (BLD).

21 Aug: Second full day at the Mount Hagen Show. O/n RONDON RIDGE, (BLD)

22 Aug: Charter flight to LAKE MURRAY. Half day tour. O/n LAKE MURRAY LODGE, (BLD)

23 Aug: Full Day Tour. O/n LAKE MURRAY LODGE, (BLD)

24 Aug: Charter flight to KARAWARI. O/n KARAWARI LODGE, (BLD)

25 Aug: Boat down the KARAWARI RIVER to the SEPIK SPIRIT. Start SEPIK RIVER CRUISE. O/n SEPIK SPIRIT, (BLD)

26 Aug: Explore Black Water Lakes and remote villages. O/n SEPIK SPIRIT, (BLD)

27 Aug: Visit Mumeri Village and continue cruising back to the Karawari Area. O/n SEPIK SPIRIT, (BLD)

28 Aug: Charter flight to AMBUA airstrip. Afternoon exploring the Ambua area. O/n AMBUA LODGE, (BLD)

29 Aug: Morning birdwatching then visit the remote tribes of the Tari Valley. O/n AMBUA LODGE, (BLD)

30 Aug: Fly to PORT MORESBY and transfer to hotel. O/n AIRWAYS HOTEL, (BLD)

31 Aug: Fly to SINGAPORE and connect with flight home.

01 Sep: Arrive LONDON HEATHROW.



# Reef & Rainforest

## **PANORAMA HAGEN SHOW TOUR OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, GROUP 2016 DETAILED ITINERARY**

- 17 Aug Depart LONDON HEATHROW on BRITISH AIRWAYS flight BA 11 at 2000 to SINGAPORE.
- 18 Aug Arrive SINGAPORE at 1605. On arrival, connect with AIR NIUGINI flight PX393 at 2035 to PORT MORESBY.
- 19 Aug Arrive PORT MORESBY. 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.
- 20 Aug Morning pick up from the hotel and transfer to the airport. Catch 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 at the airport and transfer directly to the Mount Hagen Show - world famous for its colour, culture and vibrancy. It is a truly spectacular event. The diversity of the coastal, lowland and highlands singing groups at the Hagen show reflects the incredible diversity of Papua New Guinea's landscape - an unforgettable experience. Later, transfer to the lodge.



(3).../ PANORAMA HAGEN SHOW GROUP TOUR, AUGUST 2016

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 Wahgi Valley. 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 cosy fireplace.



21 Aug

Enjoy another full day at the Mount Hagen Show. O/n RONDON RIDGE, (BLD).

22 Aug

Transfer to Mount Hagen 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.



O/n LAKE MURRAY LODGE, (BLD). 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.



(4).../ PANORAMA HAGEN SHOW GROUP TOUR, AUGUST 2016



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.



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.

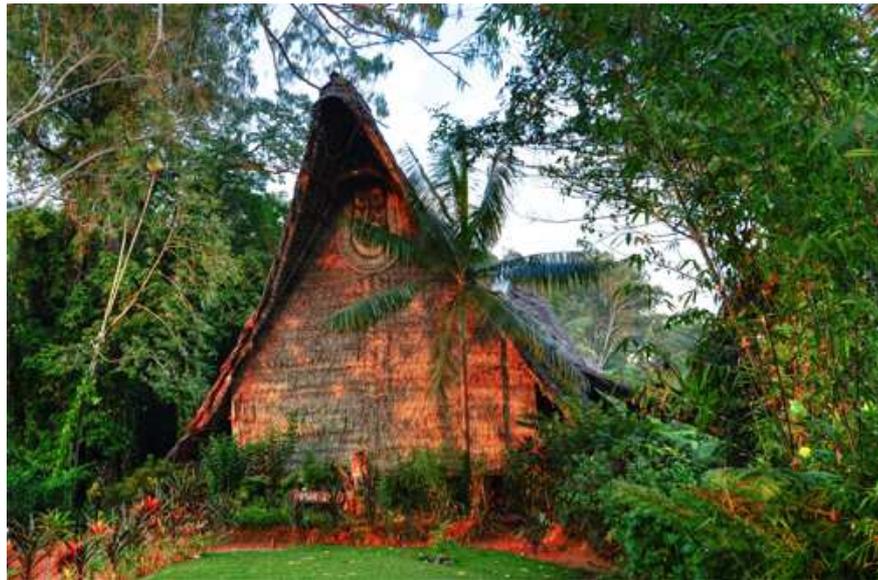


(5).../ PANORAMA HAGEN SHOW GROUP TOUR, AUGUST 2016

23 Aug Full for birding and tribal visits. (NB: OPTIONAL Fishing trips may be possible, on request – Please Enquire). O/n LAKE MURRAY LODGE (BLD).

24 Aug Fly by charter from Lake Murray to KARAWARI. From Karawari airstrip, you will be transferred by river boat and vehicle to KARAWARI LODGE. This is an area of vast alluvial floodplains, laced with narrow waterways. The Karawari are the most remote of the floodplains people. Afternoon excursion along the jungle-fringed waterways of the Karawari River where boatmen, standing upright, paddle their slender dugout canoes with sculpted silhouettes of crocodile masks. Village life including carved totems, drums, woodcarvings and different expressions of art are also experienced. See bountiful birdlife along the rivers and nearby lakes.

O/n KARAWARI LODGE, (BLD). Perched upon an isolated ridge in the midst of huge expanses of lowland rainforest in one of the most remote areas of the island, the lodge has comfortable cottages built of bush materials and is only accessible by boat along the Karawari River 300 ft below. The main lodge building is in the shape of a *haus tambaran*, or spirit house, of the local Arambak people.



25 Aug Transfer from Karawari to the comfort of the Sepik Spirit. Enjoy lunch on board the Sepik Spirit. Begin your voyage of discovery to local villages. Inspired by the local architecture of the "haus tambaran" or spirit house, the Sepik Spirit has a truly unique design.

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.



(6).../ PANORAMA HAGEN SHOW GROUP TOUR, AUGUST 2016

26 -27 Aug 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).



28 Aug Enjoy an early breakfast before your transfer to Karawari airstrip for departure. Fly by charter aircraft to Ambua airstrip over some of the most rugged and impressive landscapes in the world. 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 Astrephaga, Ribbontail Astrephaga and the Sicklebill Bird of Paradise.



O/n AMBUA LODGE, (BLD). 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. 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.

(7).../ PANORAMA HAGEN SHOW GROUP TOUR, AUGUST 2016



29 Aug

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,(BLD).



30 Aug

Final morning for some birdwatching in the TARI GAP or perhaps visit a wig school where men spend 18 months growing their ceremonial wigs. Transfer to Tari Airport for your flight to PORT MORESBY. Met and transfer to the Airways Hotel. O/n AIRWAYS HOTEL,(BLD).

31 Aug

Transfer to the airport. Catch AIR NIUGINI flight PX392 at 1415 to SINGAPORE, arriving 1835. Connect with BRITISH AIRWAYS flight BA12 at 2240 to LONDON HEATHROW.

01 Sep

Arrive LONDON HEATHROW at 0510..



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## PANORAMA HAGEN SHOW TOUR - PAPUA NEW GUINEA GROUP TOUR 2016

<i>Departure Dates from London</i>	<i>Adult Price</i>	<i>Single Supplement</i>
17 August 2016	£8,654	£915

NB: Single Supplement is Single room EXCEPT at the Rondon Ridge and on board the Sepik Spirit, which will be on a twin share basis.

NB: Maximum group size is 17

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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