



Reef & Rainforest



Vista Mount Hagen Show Tour of Papua New Guinea

Group Tour - Led by Local Guide

08 - 23 August 2017



Vista Mount Hagen Show Tour of Papua New Guinea - Group Tour 2017

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

This is a fully escorted 16 day /15 night program that provides a stunning visit of Papua New Guinea. The journey begins with the stunning vista of Ambua Lodge overlooking the Tari Valley, home of the Huli. Then fly to a special stay on the Sepik River aboard the MV Sepik Spirit, the perfect way to discover a rarely visited corner of the globe. Then relax at Karawari Lodge, which is located in the Sepik region. From there, fly to the Western Highlands to feature the highlights of a flamboyant and colourful people - the spectacular Mt Hagen Cultural Show, providing an incredible vista of cultures from all over Papua New Guinea. In a land of nearly 800 languages, there is no better place to see so many gathered in one place.

- 08 Aug Depart LONDON HEATHROW.
- 09 Aug Arrive SINGAPORE and connect with your flight to PORT MORESBY.
- 10 Aug Arrive in PORT MORESBY. Meet with group and transfer to the hotel. O/n AIRWAYS HOTEL,(D).
- 11 Aug Fly to TARI. Tfr to the lodge. Afternoon exploring the area surrounding Ambua. O/n AMBUA LODGE, (BLD).
- 12-13 Aug Two Full days of ecological and culturally based touring. O/n AMBUA LODGE, (BLD).
- 14 Aug Fly by charter flight to Timbunke. Tfr to the MV Sepik Spirit. O/n M/V SEPIK SPIRIT, (BLD).
- 15 - 16 Aug Day's spent exploring the waterways of the Sepik. O/n M/V SEPIK SPIRIT, (BLD).
- 17 Aug Fly by short charter flight to Karawari and transfer to the lodge. Afternoon visit to Kundiman Village for Sago Making demonstration. O/n KARAWARI LODGE, (BLD).
- 18 Aug Fly by charter flight MOUNT HAGEN. Met and transfer to the hotel. Afternoon pre-show program. O/n HIGHLANDER HOTEL,(BLD).
- 19 - 20 Aug Enjoy two full days at the Mount Hagen Show. O/n HIGHLANDER HOTEL, (BLD).
- 21 Aug Fly to PORT MORESBY. Tfr to the hotel. Afternoon city tour of PORT MORESBY. O/n AIRWAYS HOTEL, (BLD).
- 22 Aug Tfr to the airport. Catch flight to SINGAPORE. Connect with your flight to LONDON HEATHROW.
- 23 Aug Arrive LONDON HEATHROW.



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VISTA MOUNT HAGEN SHOW TOUR OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, GROUP 2017 DETAILED ITINERARY

- 08 Aug Depart LONDON HEATHROW on BRITISH AIRWAYS flight BA11 at 2000 to SINGAPORE.
- 09 Aug Arrive SINGAPORE at 1605. On arrival, connect with AIR NIUGINI flight PX393 at 2020 to PORT MORESBY.
- 10 Aug 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.

- 11 Aug 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 *Astraphia*, Ribbontail *Astraphia* and the Sickbill 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).../ VISTA MOUNT HAGEN SHOW GROUP TOUR, AUGUST 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.



12 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, FB.



13 Aug

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.

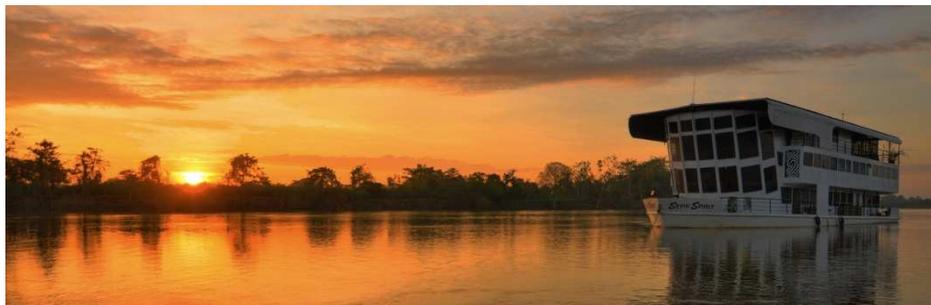
(3).../ VISTA MOUNT HAGEN SHOW GROUP TOUR, AUGUST 2017

14 Aug 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.

15-16 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).



17 Aug Early morning transfer to the lodge at KARAWARI. 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.

(4).../ VISTA MOUNT HAGEN SHOW GROUP TOUR, AUGUST 2017

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.



18 Aug

Morning pick up from the hotel and transfer to the airport. 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 hotel. In preparation for the Mount Hagen Cultural show there will be a pre-show program in the afternoon. O/n HIGHLANDER HOTEL, (BLD). Accommodation in a Premier Room. The hotel is near the town centre, and provides good facilities, including a heated pool, and a pleasant garden surrounded by a secure fence. NOTE: It is advisable to keep to the hotel compound, and not to venture into town at any time without an escort.



19-20 Aug

Two full days spent at 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 sing sing groups at the Hagen show reflects the incredible diversity of Papua New Guinea's landscape – an unforgettable experience. O/n HIGHLANDER HOTEL, (BLD).

(5).../ VISTA MOUNT HAGEN SHOW GROUP TOUR, AUGUST 2017

- 21 Aug Pick up from the lodge and transfer to the airport. Catch AIR NIUGINI flight to PORT MORESBY. Met on arrival at the airport and transfer to the hotel. Afternoon city tour of PORT MORESBY, including visits to the national museum, botanical gardens, PNG Arts shop and National Parliament House (outside view only). O/n AIRWAYS HOTEL, (BLD).
- 22 Aug Pick up from the hotel and transfer to the airport. Catch AIR NIUGINI flight PX392 at 1415 to SINGAPORE, arriving 1835. On arrival connect with BRITISH AIRWAYS flight BA12 at 2240 to LONDON HEATHROW.
- 23 Aug Arrive LONDON HEATHROW at 0510.

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VISTA MOUNT HAGEN SHOW - PAPUA NEW GUINEA GROUP TOUR 2017

<i>Departure Dates from London</i>	<i>Adult Price</i>	<i>Single Supplement</i>
08 August 2017	£8,872	£795

NB: Single Supplement is Single room EXCEPT at the Highlander Hotel and on board the Sepik Spirit, which are on 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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