



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

THE LAND OF THE SING-SINGS

July 18 - July 28, 2024
Led by Local Guides

Journey into the dense forests & Stone Age cultures in remote Papua New Guinea. Enjoy exclusive cultural experiences and stunning natural beauty on this adventurous exploration of a little-visited land. From your comfortable lodges, stopping at tiny villages, you will interact with the locals & understand their way of life. Savor a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience the colorful Mt. Hagen Show where tribe's people from all over the country converge to compete in traditional dance. In addition, in the Highlands, attend a festive Tumbuna Show, which takes place every May. In this remote land, stay in comfortable accommodations and be escorted by veteran local guides who will introduce you to local people & customs. Make the most of your time with scenic chartered flights over the impenetrable rain forest that has kept tribes isolated for centuries.

Ihab Zaki
Managing Director

Thursday, July 18
Arrive in Port Moresby (PAPUA NEW GUINEA) 

Upon arrival at Jackson's International Airport in **Port Moresby** (depending on your arrival time), meet and transfer to *Airways Hotel or similar* for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(D)**

Note: Standard check in time is 3:00 pm. if you arrive on July 16 or early morning of July 17, an extra hotel night needs to be booked.

Friday, July 19
Port Moresby - Mt. Hagen 

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for our flight to **Mount Hagen**, the heart of the PNG highlands. This area is famed for its fertile lands and stunning mountain ranges, as well as the complex and fascinating cultural traditions of the Melpa tribe. Upon arrival, meet and transfer to *Rondon Ridge* driving through the picturesque road past highlands gardens. Perched high above Mount Hagen, with mist filled views of the surrounding mountains and Wahgi Valley below. Head to the beautiful outdoor showground on the **Rondon Ridge property**, a stunning mountain vista framed by the distinctly vast highlands' sky serves as the perfect backdrop for the **Tumbuna sing-sing show**. A warm gathering of different tribal groups, each performing their unique sing-sing, while lavishly decorated and dressed in full *bilas*. The traditional bilas and sing-sing are a unique and characteristic feature of more than 800 tribes in the country. We will have the opportunity to wander throughout the area where we can interact with the dancers as they prepare for the sing-sing and take some photos before the celebration starts.

The celebrations start with the tribe's arrival and gather to paint their faces and body along with being dressed in the traditional clothing. The performance gradually builds until each of the tribes is performing simultaneously to the sound of rhythmic drumming and singing voices. Return to the *Lodge* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Saturday, July 20
Mt. Hagen 

Our tour will take place in the gorgeous highlands area of Mount Hagen in the fertile **Wahgi valley**. The area surrounding the city of Mount Hagen consists of mountain ranges, covered with lush tropical rainforest, rugged limestone bluffs and small valleys dotted with small traditional farming communities. Journey through the

traditions and customs of the **Melpa People**. First contact with the Melpa was made in the mid-1930. They are "true farmers" that still maintain traditional farming methods that can be traced back 9,000 years. The tour will bring you to local villages where the villagers will share their fascinating tribal traditions, such as the rites of widowed women, the ceremonies surrounding marriage and/or funerals, the traditions of tribal warfare and the daily customs of the Melpa people. Return to the *Lodge* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Sunday, July 21
Mt. Hagen - Kawari 

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for our charter flight to **Karawari** flying over some of the most rugged and impressive landscapes in the world. The country between Ambua and the Sepik region is an amazing array of jagged limestone that seems to rise and drop at impossible angles. Upon arrival, board a riverboat and transfer to *Karawari Lodge* for check-in. sitting on a ridge above the Karawari River, the Lodge boasts a spectacular view over hundreds of miles of dense tropical jungle. Inspired by local architecture and built with traditional materials, while still providing modern comforts. Located on a ridge overlooking the Karawari River, in the Sepik region is a time-warped mix of pre-technological and technological architecture - is the perfect base for some old-fashioned jungle, river and **village** exploration. We are in the middle of Arambak country-local's pole dugout canoes, the drums throb, the wild birds call, and traditional village lifestyles continue largely unchanged. "Something like a National Geographic expedition. No roads, thick jungle, Locals poling dugouts, Crocodiles.

Enjoy lunch and then head to visit to a nearby village where we will learn about the customary process of harvesting and preparing the **sago palm**, a staple food for the Sepik tribes and one of the most important carbohydrates in Papua New Guinea. Return to *the Lodge* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Monday, July 22
Karawari - Sepik Cruise 

We will board the **Sepik Spirit** River boat; its' unique design was inspired by the local art and architecture of the "*Haus Tambaran*" or Spirit House. Enjoy lunch onboard as we begin the sail along the swirling waters of the Karawari River, where boatmen, standing upright, paddle

their slender dugout canoes with sculpted silhouettes of crocodile masks. In the afternoon, we will visit one of the local villages to understand the unique tribal traditions and may experience the village life including carved totems, drums, woodcarvings, and different expressions of art. Enjoy dinner on board and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Tuesday-Wednesday, July 23-July 24
Sepik Cruise



Enjoy breakfast on board while we travel to the Krosmeri river junction and Black water Lakes. This extremely remote area of the East Sepik Province is home to some of the most untouched villages in the region. Find yourself meandering along the dark water as it weaves through the thick jungle; pass through the small riverside villages and men poling silently through the water in traditional dugout canoes. We will be able to gain a sense of life on the river and each day we will travel via open-air jet boat to reach the remote villages and will learn about the **Sepik customs** and experience their **day-to-day life** in modern times, which still closely reflects their traditional tribal lifestyle. These daily trips offer a true sense of the nature, village life and the peaceful atmosphere of life on the river. The tribes here still maintain long-held traditions, steeped in the ancient stories of the spirits of the rivers and jungles and their ancestors that inhabited these areas. Their beliefs are expressed in the artistic carvings and indigenous art that is unique to this region. We will have an opportunity to admire the unique artifacts while visiting the local villages. Enjoy dinner onboard and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Thursday, July 25
Sepik Cruise - Tari Valley



Enjoy breakfast then transfer to the airport for our flight crossing the untouched rainforest and mountains to **Tari Valley**, home to one of the most recognizable cultures in Papua New Guinea - the "Huli Wigmen". Upon arrival, meet and transfer to *Ambua Lodge*; nestled at the edge of the lush green rainforest and overlooking the serene Tari valley for check-in, we will spend the afternoon enjoying Ambua's winding forest trails through the lush rainforest, past gushing waterfalls, and over traditional vine bridges. We may have the opportunity to observe up to 13 species of birds alongside a wide variety of colored flowers, exotic plants, and insects. Return to the *Lodge* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Friday-Saturday, July 26-July 27
Tari Valley



We will spend two days exploring the villages and meet the iconic **Huli tribe**, an indigenous people who lived in the area for at least 600 years and still largely living the same way that their ancestors did. They are famous for their colorful *bilas* (traditional dress) and their unique traditions and beliefs. The Huli men pride themselves in their beautiful *bilas* with its' richly constructed human

hair headdress, which they lavishly decorate with flowers, mosses, and ornate bird feathers. It is combined with their unique singing as it is intended to both captivate their audience, as well as intimidate enemies. Visit the **Men's Wig School** and tour the **Local Villages** to experience how this proud mountain tribe has evolved in the modern age, while still maintaining the stories, beliefs, and traditions of their ancestors. Return to the *Lodge* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Sunday, July 28
Tari Valley - USA



Enjoy breakfast then transfer to the airport for your flight back to the US. **(B)**

"We reserve the right to change the order of activities/visits or sites due to unexpected events such as flight cancellations or changes of schedule, or any other reasons beyond our control. We will do our best to ensure that any necessary changes when/if needed to meet the needs of our clients".



Tour Cost (Land Only):

6 - 8 travelers \$9,995.00

9 - 14 travelers \$9,495.00

Per person sharing in double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$1,995.00

Single throughout except Twin Sharing at Rondon Ridge & Sepik Spirit

Price based on group size minimum of 6 participants and maximum of 14 participants

Trip Grade: II Lodging Level: ***



Tour Includes:

- Airport / Hotel / Airport transfers.
- All accommodation at mentioned *Hotels* and *Lodges* or aboard cruise in private cabins with ensuite bathrooms.
- Travel by air-conditioned motor coach or 4x4 vehicles.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- Entrance fees to all mentioned sites and museums.
- English Speaking local guides.
- All activities and cultural/musical performances described in the tour.
- Internal charter flights
- Gratuities to guide, drivers, and porters (provided minimum number of travelers is reached).

Trip Grade:

II Active – Some hikes, slightly more demanding walks at or to sites, few elevations, comfortable but busy schedule and some long rides.

Lodging Level:

**** Superior: Lodges and hotels with additional amenities, refined service, and comfort level acceptable to western standards. (3 or 4 stars)*

Tour does not include:

- International airfare USA - Papua New Guinea - USA.
- Papua New Guinea Visa fee (approx. \$50.00 - Subject to change).
- Port Moresby/Tari and Mount Hagen/Port Moresby domestic flights (Approx. \$400.00).
- Beverages and alcoholic drinks with or without meals.
- Any required pre arrival & pre departure PCR tests.
- Items of a personal nature (camera fees, laundry, excess luggage, etc.).
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on tour dates.
- Dayroom/overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules or misconnections.
- Trip surcharge to operate below required minimum participants.
- Travel protection insurance. **(MANDATORY)**

