

PNG Highlands, Kokoda, Sepik River & Island Sojourn 2017

includes the famous Mt.Hagen
“Sing Sing” and Birdwatching
aplenty. Explore the mysterious
Sepik River and be immersed into it’s artistic and animist culture.
Expect the unexpected from beautiful Muschu Island.
Visit the iconic Kokoda Track in it’s 75th anniversary year !



11 Days/ 10 nights

Thursday 17 August – Sunday 27th August 2017

Fully Escorted small group tour – a safe Adventure

This 11 day, fully escorted tour visits the cultural kaleidoscope that is **Papua New Guinea**. Experience up close the vividly spectacular and vastly varied forms of customs, cooking, costumes, language, music and dance in one of the most culturally intact places in the world, home to 800 tribes. Perched on the Pacific’s ‘Rim of Fire’, **Papua New Guinea** presents you with a daily feast of dramatic scenery and happy Melanesians. You will travel through the photogenic landscape on rural roads and walking trails, along rivers in motorised canoes, across seas in boats and view the inaccessible from the air. Step back in time amongst iconic military sites and largely intact war relics.

The PNG Highlands- Days 1 – 4

Following your arrival from Brisbane , Australia, you traverse the stunning PNG **Highlands** seeking out the beautiful Birds of Paradise amongst many other colourful species . Attend PNG’s premier cultural event, the **Mt. Hagen Show**, the origin of which dates to 1961 when Australian colonial administrators sought to reduce tribal fighting and promote peace. Today, with pride and cash prizes at stake, the tribes participate in this enormous cultural competition with painstaking preparation to excite and entertain the many thousands of local spectators.



The “Sing Sing” enables a limited number of Western tourists to experience up close, the colour, movement and music performed by the largest gathering of diverse tribes in the South Pacific. Your camera clicking finger will earn a rest, having recorded some of the most memorable days of your global travels. **Mt Hagen**, capital of the densely populated Highlands region of mainland PNG was “discovered” as recently as the 1930’s by Australian gold prospectors, Mick Leahy and Michael Dwyer.





Melanesians have occupied the highland interior of New Guinea Island probably for more than 30,000 years, developing advanced plant cultivation and irrigation technologies at 1,500 meters above sea level, possibly 10,000 years ago, establishing themselves amongst the world's earliest agriculturists. Visit coffee and tea plantations. Coffee is Papua New Guinea's second largest agricultural export, employing approximately 2.5 million people.

- Fly from Mt Hagen to Wewak.

Magical Muschu Island – Days 5 - 6



Experience coastal life along the jungle fringed beaches of golden sands and turquoise waters on picturesque **Muschu Island**, opposite the stunning **Kairiru Island** in the **Bismark Sea**. The Island hosted a Japanese naval base during WW2 and a prisoner of war camp at the war's end.

Expect the unexpected on Muschu Island where your Australian tour leader has forged a special relationship with the Islanders over the past decade. Discover the culture, the characters and the cuisine, caught fresh from the waters of the Blue Sepik!

Sepik River Journey- Days 7 - 9

Your journey down the mysterious **Sepik River** in a motorised dugout canoe, experiencing traditional village life along the way. Local villagers have lived along the river for millennia producing magnificent **wood carvings** and artful **clay pottery**. Ecologically, the **Sepik River** system is possibly the largest uncontaminated freshwater wetland system in the Asia-Pacific region. The river dominates the north-east region of PNG and the crocodiles that inhabit it, are central to the animist beliefs and initiation ceremonies that are still practised in this remote part of the world. Travelling on the **Sepik River** in a canoe is safe and provides an ideal vantage point from which to observe the river's aquatic inhabitants, abundant birdlife and **Sepik River** peoples whose daily life seems unchanged by modernity. (Crocodiles pose no threat to tourists. The introduction of boat motors in recent decades has pushed the crocodile population away from the main **Sepik River**).



You visit the initiated men for “*talk talk*” in the Spirit House at night as they swap stories of their culture, enriched with legends and myths. You can almost feel the ancestors in the shadows! (Foreign women are allowed to attend). The **Kanganaman Spirit House** is the oldest *Haus Tambaran* and one of the biggest on the river. A huge building renovated with assistance from the National Museum, it's of national cultural importance. - Fly from Wewak to Port Moresby

Sogeri Plateau & Kokoda Track – Days 10 - 11

Your lodge style accommodation nestled in rainforest foliage on the **Sogeri Plateau** overlooking the Laloki River in the foothills of the **Owen Stanley Ranges** about half-way between Port Moresby and the start of the **Kokoda Track** at **Owens Corner**. You will enjoy your final dinner here together and be entertained by a Koirari Warrior.

An early start will have you birdwatching and immersing yourself in the natural wonders of the **Varirata National Park**. You will visit Owens Corner and the beginning of the iconic **Kokoda Track** in it's 75th anniversary.



Fly from Port Moresby to Sydney, Australia

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Cost : AUD \$7,990 pp

AUD \$990 pp Single supplement

Includes:

- Return flight ex Brisbane to Port Moresby on Air Nuigini, the PNG National carrier. Return to Sydney.
- all PNG domestic flights
- all land and water based transport,
- all accommodation and most meals,,
- all entry fees,
- all taxes,
- all local guides,
- Fully escorted by the informative, English-speaking Tour Leader and Director of Flynn's Tours, John Gannan.

