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## Highlands Tribes Mt Hagen and Goroka 2018

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Papua New Guinea - Papua New Guinea - Papua New Guinea

8 Days / 7 Nights

0 Persons

Date of Issue: 17 September 2017

10 September 2018 - 17 September 2018

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[Click here to view your Digital Itinerary](http://wetu.com/ltinerary/Landing/CEB778AC-7A8E-7F4A-C0DC-5457B301E680)

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## Overview

Accommodation	Destination	Arr.	Dep.	Nights	Basis	Room Type
Mount Hagen	Papua New Guinea	10 Sep	12 Sep	2	FB	
Goroka	Papua New Guinea	12 Sep	14 Sep	2	FB	1x Asaro Guest House
Goroka	Papua New Guinea	14 Sep	17 Sep	3	B&B	1x Dr Bones' Klerht Cove Motel

### Key

B&B: Bed and breakfast

FB: Dinner, bed, breakfast and lunch

## Price

\$2170 USD per person based on 2 sharing.

\$350 single supplement

## Included

7 nights' accommodation.

Includes meals except 3 dinners and 2 lunches at Goroka

Goroka Show entry with VIP passes, Sing Sings.

Domestic flights and transfers

## Excluded

3 dinners and 2 lunches at Goroka

Visa fees (if applicable - most nationalities get free visa on arrival)

Pre-trip accommodation in Port Moresby if necessary. Inbound international flights generally land first thing in the morning, allowing a same day connection to start the tour if the overnight flight is not too tiring. Our recommended Port Moresby accommodation costs between \$140 USD and \$210 USD per room, depending on the hotel and room type.

## Payment schedule

25% non-refundable deposit to book spaces, balance 60 days prior to departure.

Payment via bank transfer to our USD account. Can be converted to Euros or GB Pounds.

Credit card payment possible, subject to third-party processing fees of 2.9% on USD cards, 1.4% on EUR and GBP cards.

## Day 1: Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea (Mon, 10 September)

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### Papua New Guinea

Located only 100 miles north of Australia, this Melanesian nation shares the island of New Guinea with Papua, Indonesia's easternmost province. The island is blessed with a wealth of natural treasures including dense rainforests, idyllic islands, rich highlands, and volcanic sites. Visitors can look forward to diving along pristine coral reefs and World War II wrecks, observing the traditional culture of the local tribesmen in the Highlands, or exploring remote villages along the spectacular 550-mile Sepik River. Aside from the dizzying array of diverse ethnic groups, one of the prime attractions is the island's unique ecosystem which is home to some unusual wildlife such as tree-climbing kangaroos and the much celebrated birds of paradise. Still steeped in mysticism, Papua New Guinea remains one of the most remote and intriguing destinations in the world. It makes an ideal destination for intrepid travellers seeking a wild adventure into one of the world's final frontiers.

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### Day Itinerary

After arriving at Mt Hagen airport, we travel to Paiya village to meet the chief and his wives, learn about their customs, see a fire making demonstration, and listen to the traditional bamboo flute

### Activities

We drive 30 minutes from the airport to Magic Mountain Lodge. Village visit

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### Overnight: Mount Hagen

Mount Hagen is a city in the Western Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea overlooking the spectacularly scenic Wagh Valley. The area is home to the Melpa people who, in the face of ever encroaching modernity, continue to live largely traditional subsistence lifestyles. The town's population is around 50,000 and increases significantly for the Mount Hagen Show, an annual dance festival where costumed locals come from all over the country to represent their tribe in an extravagant sing- and dance-off. Those not lucky enough to visit during these annual festivities can get a taste of the action at the Mount Hagen market which is a bustling meeting place filled with colourful fruits, scurrying chickens, and some fabulously friendly locals dressed in fascinating native attire.

There are numerous excellent spots for bird watching, and half-a-dozen different species can be found in a day with the help of a good guide, more over a longer periods if one is patient.



### Included

Full Board

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## Day 2: Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea (Tue, 11 September)

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### Day Itinerary

Full day birding – Breakfast at 4:30 am and 5:00am transfer in vehicles to Rondon Ridge (60 minutes) and continue to the birding site for a one-hour walk up a well cut path. Spend the morning with your guide looking for mating displays by the male birds of paradise and spotting other endemic species too. Return to Mt Hagen town for lunch, then continue to Kumul Lodge to see birds feeding at a bird platform. Return to Magic Mountain late afternoon.

Birds possible to be seen- King of Saxony, Stephanie's Astrephaga, Brown sickle bill, Black sickle bill, Buff-tailed sickle bill, Superb bird of paradise, Loria's bird of paradise, Short-tailed paradigalla, Raggiana bird of paradise, lesser bird of paradise, Superb bird of paradise, Blue bird of paradise. Other non birds of paradise include Honey eater, Blue capped ifritta, fantails, robins, swallows, whistlers, doves & pigeons, falcons, parrots, lorikeets. Macgregor's and Yellow-breasted bowerbirds, scrub wrens, berrypickers, cuckooshrike, goshawk & kites and other species.

### Activities

A full day birdwatching looking for birds of paradise, with some walking through the countryside and forests..

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### Included

Full Board

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## Day 3: Goroka, Papua New Guinea (Wed, 12 September)

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### Papua New Guinea

See Above

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### Activities

Accommodation for two nights is in a lodge built by the Asaro in their village. The Asaro village guest house has twin and double rooms, 24-hour electricity, male and female "long drop" toilets, and rainwater showers. Water can be heated in shower bags for showers.

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### Overnight: Goroka

Goroka is the capital of the Eastern Highlands Province. A town of approximately 19,000 people, 1600m above sea level. It is on the "Highlands Highway", about four hours from Mt. Hagen. It has a mild climate, known as a "perpetual Spring". The mountains and valleys around are fertile and produce some of the finest coffee beans in the world.

Half-an-hour west of the town lies the Asaro Valley and its fascinating Asaro Mudmen, one of the iconic cultural groups of the country. That's some going for a country that is home to up to 1000 different languages. The Asaro are happy to explain their story, through eerie representations of battle, cannibalism, and communion with their gods.

The valley also has some stunning walks and viewpoints, birds of paradise and many orchid species, as well as the refreshing Asaro River.

Every September the town hosts the amazing and unique Highlands Cultural Festival, when up to 150 different tribal groups gather for the weekend closest to independence day, the 16th of September. Around 350 foreign visitors are privileged to be able to attend, vastly outnumbered by tens of thousands of locals from the surrounding areas.




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### Included

Full Board

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### Day 4: Goroka, Papua New Guinea (Thu, 13 September)

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#### Activities

Day trip to Mount Akemeku to see the coffee plantation and hike along the Akemeku River to learn how the people use the land and forests around them to live. We visit to the secret cave and sacrifice site at Mt Gurupoka too. We will also visit the Asaro River for a refreshing dip.

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### Included

Full Board

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### Day 5: Goroka, Papua New Guinea (Fri, 14 September)

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#### Papua New Guinea

See Above

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#### Activities

Today we learn about Asaro traditions, including bride price negotiations, preparing a "mumu" (earth oven). Three sing sing performances, archery practice, mask making demonstration. At the end of the day we leave the Asaro and relocate to our guest house in Goroka town. The guesthouse was built in 2016, has air-conditioned rooms (not at all needed at night, and rarely during the day), and en-suite bathrooms.

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### Included

Bed & Breakfast

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### Day 6: Goroka, Papua New Guinea (Sat, 15 September)

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#### Activities

VIP access to the spectacular Highlands Cultural Festival. Up to 150 tribal groups attend to show off their traditional finery in a riot of colour and sound. Tens of thousands of locals come to watch. It is an unforgettable experience. We can take photos and videos freely all day.

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### Included

Bed & Breakfast

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### Day 7: Goroka, Papua New Guinea (Sun, 16 September)

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#### Activities

Second day with VIP access at the Festival. Don't forget to check out the agricultural fair in the bottom field with its splendid orchids and wonderful coffee to taste. There's also a concert and the hilarious greasy pole competition.

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### Included

Bed & Breakfast

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### Day 8: Departure (Mon, 17 September)

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Flight to Port Moresby. Extension to our escorted Sepik Adventure Trip possible.

## Transport

### Flight Information

Date	Flight	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time	Class	Ref
10 Sep	Scheduled	Jacksons International Airport [POM]	TBA	Mount Hagen	TBA		
17 Sep	Scheduled	Goroka	10:05	Jacksons International Airport [POM]	11:15		

### Transfers

Date	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
12 Sep	Mount Hagen	Goroka		Transfer
14 Sep	Goroka	Goroka		Transfer

### Travel Information

Located only 100miles north of Australia, this Melanesian nation shares the island of New Guinea with Papua, Indonesia's easternmost province. The island is blessed with a wealth of natural treasures including dense rainforests, idyllic islands, rich highlands, and volcanic sites. Visitors can look forward to diving along pristine coral reefs and World War II wrecks, observing the traditional culture of the local tribesmen in the Highlands, or exploring remote villages along the spectacular 550-mile Sepik River. Aside from the dizzying array of diverse ethnic groups, one of the prime attractions is the island's unique ecosystem which is home to an some unusual wildlife such as tree-climbing kangaroos and the much celebrated birds of paradise. Still steeped in mysticism, Papua New Guinea remains one of the most remote and intriguing destinations in the world. It makes an ideal destination for intrepid travellers seeking a wild adventure into one of the world's final frontiers.

#### *Banking and Currency*

##### **Currency**

Kina (PGK; symbol K) = 100 toea. Notes are in denominations of K100, 50, 20, 10, 5 and 2. Coins are in denominations of K1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 toea.

There are no restrictions on the import of local or foreign currency. The export of local currency is restricted to K200 and foreign currency to the equivalent of K10,000.

## Banking

Banking hours: Monday-Thursday 08h45-15h00 and Friday 08h45-16h00.

American Express is the most widely accepted credit card; MasterCard and Visa are often accepted as well.

Travellers cheques are accepted by most shops and hotels. To avoid additional exchange rate charges, traveller's are advised to take traveller's cheques in US Dollars, Pounds Sterling or Australian Dollars.

Currency exchange facilities are available through trade banks.

### *Travel, Transport and Getting Around*

Air Niugini ([www.airniugini.com.pg](http://www.airniugini.com.pg)) and PNG Air ([www.pngair.com.pg](http://www.pngair.com.pg)) fly to all the main centres. Charter services are also available.

Car hire services are available in principal towns. Owing to the rugged terrain of Papua New Guinea, road development of the interior has been slow. There is a network of roads connecting the northern coast towns of Madang and Lae with the major urban centres in the Highlands region. There are few roads connecting the various provinces. Vehicles drive on the left side of the road in Papua New Guinea..

Boat cruises go mainly to the islands and otherwise inaccessible places on the coast. Cargo/passenger services between Lae and Madang run by Lutheran Shipping (with facilities including passenger cabins, accommodation and meals) are currently suspended following the company's liquidation.

For the local people in some regions of the country, rivers, particularly the Sepik, provide the main thoroughfares. In these areas it's possible to hire motorised canoes or obtain passage on a trading boat; however, apart from cruises, there are no regular public transport operators on the rivers.

### *Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice*

All water should be regarded as being potentially contaminated. Water used for drinking, brushing teeth or making ice should have first been boiled or otherwise sterilised. Milk is pasteurised and dairy products are safe for consumption.

Hotel dining rooms cater for most visitors and menus in main centres are fairly extensive. The more remote the area, the more likely it is that the menus will be basic. However, increasing use is made of fresh local meat, fish, vegetables and fruit. The number of European, Chinese and Indonesian restaurants is rising.

The traditional cuisine of Papua New Guinea is based on root crops such as taro, yams and sago. Pigs are cooked in the earth for traditional feasts. Mumu is a traditional dish combining roast pork, sweet potatoes, rice and greens. Local fruits include pineapples, pawpaws, mangoes, passion fruit and bananas. Alcohol is available..

Waiter service is usual. Bills include a 10% sales tax. Tipping is not customary and discouraged.

### *Climate and Weather*

Papua New Guinea has a hot, tropical climate at sea level, cooling towards the highlands which also cause climatic variation from one area to another, affecting the southeast trade winds and the northwest monsoons. The majority of the rain falls between December and March due to the northwest monsoon, although Port Moresby enjoys a dry season at this time. There is frost and there are occasional snow falls on the highest mountain peaks.

### *Clothing and Dress Recommendations*

Lightweight, loose-fitting, cotton or linen clothing is generally recommended due to the hot and humid tropical climate. Casual, comfortable and conservative clothes are the key. Dress down rather than up. Short, tight or



revealing clothes should be avoided. Long-sleeved, cotton shirts and trousers are ideal as not only will they protect you from the sun, but also from the mosquitoes that come out in the late afternoon. It can get cool in the evenings (especially in the Highlands) so make sure to bring some warm clothing. Bring plenty of sunscreen, sunglasses, a sunhat, mosquito repellent and a good pair of closed walking shoes. Rainwear is advised for the monsoon season (December to March).

### *Electricity and Plug Standards*

Electrical sockets in Papua New Guinea are the "Type I" Australian AS-3112 type. If your appliance's plug doesn't match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to plug in.

Electrical sockets in Papua New Guinea usually supply electricity at between 220 and 240 volts AC. If you're plugging in an appliance that was built for 220-240 volt electrical input, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need. If your appliance isn't compatible with 220-240 volt electrical input, a voltage converter will be necessary.

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