



PAPUA NEW GUINEA DISCOVERY & MOUNT HAGEN SHOW

Culture & Ecological Adventure

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...

ITINERARY

PNG Discovery & Mt Hagen Show Tour

9 DAYS • 8 NIGHTS

Port Moresby – Mt Hagen – Karawari – Ambua – Port Moresby

HIGHLIGHTS

- Unique opportunity to discover the culture, wildlife & ecosystems of the world's second largest island
- Attend the famous Mount Hagen Cultural Show
- Stay at the 3-Star Highlander Hotel where you will wake up in the midst of Mount Hagen and its beautifully manicured surroundings
- Fly over some of the most rugged and impressive landscapes in the world
- Explore the mighty Sepik River and Lake Murray

TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Culture & Ecological Adventure Tour
Tour Start	Port Moresby
Tour End	Port Moresby
Accommodation	Lodges & Hotels
Included Meals	8 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches, 8 Dinners
Group Size	Max. 8 people

DISCOVER MOUNT HAGEN EXPEDITION



With a smorgasbord of colour, culture and excitement this adventure offers a unique opportunity to discover the real Papua New Guinea, the world's second largest island. Immerse yourself in the famous Mount Hagen Cultural Show, an internationally recognised event where many of the opulently decorated cultural groups of this incredibly diverse land gather to celebrate costume, art and culture. Spend your days on this small group tour learning about the culture and what makes this beautiful place so different, along with exploring the local ecosystems.



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PAPUA NEW GUINEA DISCOVER MT HAGEN *an overview*

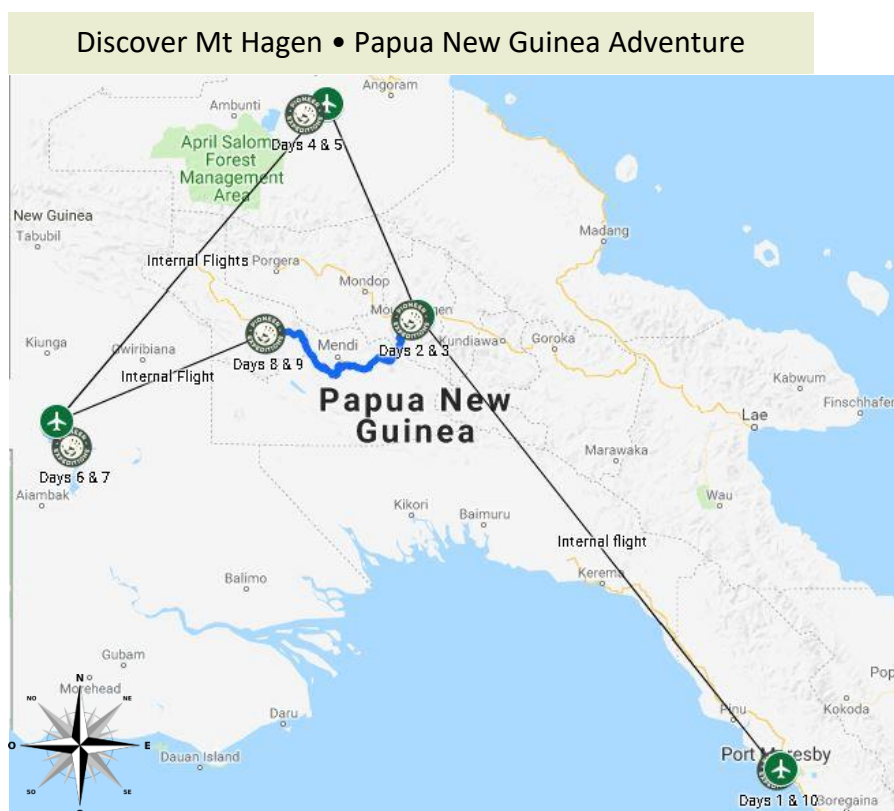
On this trip we will explore Papua New Guinea, starting and finishing our adventure in Port Moresby. Fly by chartered flight to Mt Hagen and continue to Ambua whilst passing through Karawari and Lake Murray en route. This adventure allows us explore and experience the real Papua New Guinea whilst we uncover the areas untouched by tourism. The trips gives you a great insight into the Papuan people at all locations but especially during the famous Mount Hagen Show where multiple sensory experiences including the rhythmic thumping of Kundu (traditional drums made of lizard skins) and witness hundreds of people in a towering sea of headdresses, colourful foliage and paint-encrusted faces. For the remainder of the journey we will focus on the ecosystems, wildlife and local tribes. This includes discovering high mountain forests with roaring waterfalls and socialising with the Huli people, who today, still live the same way their ancestors did.

WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

We really are one of the few specialists that really “do” off the beaten track and unique adventures in PAPUA NEW GUINEA. We are driven by a passion for adventure travel and wildlife and Papua New Guinea is one of our most interesting specialities.

Pioneer Director, Philip Beale FRGS, first visited Papua New Guinea in 1979 and in many ways the people, villages and countryside have changed little in the intervening years. So now is a great time to see this amazing country before it really starts to change.

ITINERARY



DAY 1: Arrive in Port Moresby

Upon your arrival in Port Moresby, you will be met by a member of staff and transferred to your hotel for the evening.



Overnight:
Airways Hotel



Meals:
D



Activity:
In transit

DAY 2: Transfer to Mount Hagen

Transfer from the Airways Hotel back to the airport for your flight to Mount Hagen.

Today is spent at the Hagen Cultural Pre-show; an intimate gathering of a dozen or more different PNG tribal groups, each performing their unique sing-sing while lavishly decorated and dressed in full bilas; tribal dress. The show takes place at a beautiful outdoor showground on the Rondon Ridge property. The stunning mountain vista framed by the distinctly vast highlands' sky serves as the perfect backdrop for this unique demonstration of PNG tradition.

The celebrations will begin as the tribes arrive and gather to carefully adorn themselves with their complex headdresses, face and body paint and traditional clothing. As the morning progresses, we will gather together and the groups will each perform their sing-sing. The afternoon also includes demonstrations of the traditional Melpa bridal price exchange, warfare demonstration and a shared mumu; the traditional earth-oven used to prepare food for feasts.

Mount Hagen, located in the upper Wahgi Valley, is Papua New Guinea's third largest city. 'Hagen' as it is often referred to was once a patrol station prior to WWII. Due to the opening of the Enga river and the southern highlands the area has boomed over the past 40 years and as a result, the ambience can vary from the laidback, chilled Papua New Guinean vibe to something more intense.



Overnight:
Highlander Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Activity:
Culture

DAY 3-4: Mount Hagen Cultural Show

This weekend you will attend the annual Mount Hagen Cultural Show. The Mount Hagen Show is truly a unique and splendid cultural experience, unparalleled both in diversity and authenticity. The show itself is a stunning reflection of the incredible diversity of Papua New Guinea's cultural landscape.

The Show brings together more than 80 unique and colourful sing-sing groups from across Papua New Guinea; each of whom share their unique celebration display through colorful traditional dress, dance and song.

The celebrations will begin as the tribes arrive and gather to carefully adorn themselves with their complex headdresses, face and body paint and traditional clothing. You will arrive at the showgrounds with ample time to wander throughout the tribal groups where you can interact with and photograph the performers as they prepare themselves for the festivities.



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Soon after the show will begin, as each tribal group enters the showground and proudly performs their unique sing-sing to the enraptured audience. The performance gradually builds until each of the tribes is simultaneously performing to a cacophony of rhythmic drumming and hundreds of voices. It is truly an awe-inspiring experience.



This annual event brings together various regional, provincial and national tribal dance groups to celebrate their cultural heritage in the form of a Sing-Sing. The show takes place near the Baiyer District which is home to the largest collection of birds and wildlife in Papua New Guinea. This area is also known for the Baiyer River Bird Sanctuary.



Overnight:
Highlander Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Activity:
Culture

DAY 5: Transfer to Karawari

This morning fly by charter flight into the deep heart of the jungle where your wondrous journey continues at the Karawari Lodge in the Sepik region. Sitting on a ridge above the Karawari River, the lodge boasts a spectacular view of hundreds of kilometres of dense tropical jungle. Proceed with lunch, followed by an afternoon visit to a nearby village to learn about the customary process of harvesting and preparing the sago palm. Sago is the staple food for the Karawari tribes.



Overnight:
Karawari Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Activity:
In Transit & Culture



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DAY 6: Tour of the Karawari area

Enjoy one full day traveling along the jungle fringed Karawari river to visit the small villages that line its shores. The villages provide a unique opportunity to visit traditional homes, witness ceremonial dances and celebrations and glimpse traditional village life. The Karawari tribes express their beliefs through their skillful and artistic expressions of sculpture and art. Enjoy this opportunity to admire or purchase the beautifully woven baskets, carved masks, drums and sculptures. At the end of each afternoon you will return to the comfort of the Karawari Lodge in time to refresh and relax before dinner.



The Karawari area is one of the most remote locations in Papua New Guinea and as a result its surroundings are unspoilt. With the only way in and out of the area limited to the Lodge's airstrip, locals survive off the land, for example, they use the Sago Palm to weave baskets for catching fish and for preparing and cooking their staple food. There are no roads, shops or phones. Homes are built on stilts along the river and the main mode of transport are canoes.

The lowland rainforest is one of the most interesting ecological areas in the world with a vast range of fauna and flora calling it home. It is recorded that 229 different bird species live in the Karawari area making it the perfect spot for a keen birdwatcher.



Overnight:
Karawari Lodge



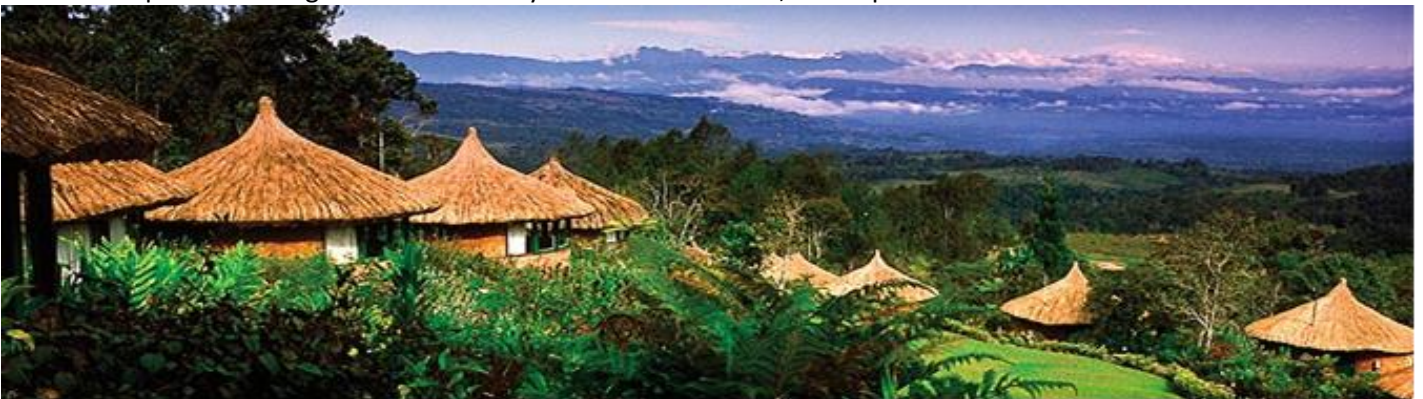
Meals:
B, L, D



Activity:
Culture and Wildlife

DAY 7: Transfer to Ambua

This morning you will take a short flight across untouched rainforest and mountains to the Tari Valley. The Huli tribe that inhabit this area in the largest as well as one of the most colourful and iconic tribes of PNG. Once you arrive you will be transferred to Ambua Lodge; nestled at the edge of the lush green rainforest and overlooking the serene Tari Valley below. Spend the afternoon enjoying Ambua's winding forest trails that take you through lush rainforest, past gushing waterfalls and over traditional vine bridges. While on the nature walk you may chance to observe up to 13 species of the birds of paradise alongside a wide variety of coloured flowers, exotic plants and insects.



Overnight:
Ambua Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Activity:
In-transit and Culture



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DAY 8: Ambua

Spend one full day touring the villages and countryside of the iconic Huli tribe. The Huli's are famed for their colourful bilas (traditional dressing) and unique traditions. The Huli men pride themselves on their beautiful bilas with its elaborately constructed human hair headdress which they lavishly decorate with flowers, mosses and ornate bird feathers. Their bilas, combined with their unique sing sing is intended both to enrapture 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.



Overnight:
Ambua Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Activity:
Culture

DAY 9: Depart Home

This morning you depart for Port Moresby. You will be met by a member of our partners staff and transferred to your ongoing international flight



Overnight:
N/A



Meals:
B



Activity:
Onward Journey/Flight Home



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Included	Not Included
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All meals as described (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner) ■ Accommodation as described ■ Airport transfers & Chartered flights ■ Tours as described ■ Tour guide from Day 2 – 9 ■ Local guide ■ Show gate fees ■ All gratuities to hotel, restaurant staff, local drivers, guides and porters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ International & Domestic Air Niugini flights (These can be arranged through us, if needed) ➤ Visa fees ➤ Meals other than mentioned ➤ Alcoholic and soft drinks (water included during tours) ➤ Personal expenses ➤ Services of a tour leader throughout or any gratuities

ACCOMMODATION *at a glance*

	Location	Accommodation	Example
Night 1	Port Moresby	Hotel	Airways Hotel
Night 2, 3 & 4	Mount Hagen	Hotel	Highlander Hotel
Night 5 & 6	Karawari	Lodge	Karawari Lodge
Night 7 & 8	Ambua	Lodge	Ambua Lodge



WHAT OUR DIRECTOR HAS SAID...

“Parts of Papua New Guinea have changed little in the last few decades and with so much culture, wildlife and ecology this trip is one of my favourites.”

- P. Beale FRGS



THE PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at info@pioneerexpeditions.com if you're interested in this trip, or any of our other expeditions from around the world.

1. Contact us -

We will be happy to answer any questions or enquiries you may have. From here we will begin to plan and put together your dream adventure holiday! Alternatively, on our website you will find our booking and enquiry forms; once filled in, we will be notified of your enquiry and will get back to you ASAP.

2. Leave everything to us -

Everything will be arranged and booked by us, but we will make sure to keep you updated every step of the way. In addition, we can arrange your international flights if needed, as we have access to competitive airfares. We can also arrange any additional tours or additional night's accommodation.

3. Wait for your adventure to begin -

Sit back and count down the days until your trip of a lifetime with Pioneer Expeditions. We'll handle all of the last minute preparations and provide you with everything you need. All practical information will be sent out to you, prior to your trip.

