

# Papua New Guinea Goroka Show Cultural Tour 2012

Itinerary dates: September 9 - 21, 2012

Tour Leader – Beth Whitman

This 12-day **cultural journey** to Papua New Guinea includes the fantastic **Goroka Show** held each year in September. This **singsing** attracts approximately **75 tribes** from around the country.

In addition to the **Goroka Show**, which features the Asaro Mudmen, the tour includes visits to the **Sepik River** region where the group will boat down this mighty river in the north. You'll **experience a homestay**, visit **sacred spirit houses** (haus tambarans) and be welcomed by **tribal chiefs at village singsings**.

## Day 1

**September 9, 2012 (Meals: D)**

On this day of the trip, you'll be welcomed upon landing at the Port Moresby Airport and head to the hotel. Depending on arrival times, there may be a chance for the group to have a **brief tour of Port Moresby** including the **Botanical Gardens**, a **village on stilts** and **local galleries**. Overnight in Port Moresby.

## Day 2

**September 10, 2012 (Meals: B, L, D)**

Following breakfast, the group will head to the airport for the **flight to Wewak**, where you'll be met by a local guide and taken to the hotel. This is going to be the starting point for the **tour of the Sepik region**. Overnight in Wewak.

## Day 3

**September 11, 2012 (Meals: B, L, D)**

Today the group will enjoy an early breakfast and travel around 4 hours to **Pagwi**. You'll then go by **motorized canoe to a nearby village** where you will enjoy a welcome singsing by the tribespeople. You'll then continue onward to **Kanganamun** where there may be another singsing as you'll have a chance to visit the village's sacred haus tambaran. Overnight in Kanganamun.

**NOTE** - This accommodation is **quite basic** and likely will consist of a thin mattress on bare floors, an outside pit toilet and bucket baths. Meals will also be simple (taro, sago and chicken) and there is no electricity in this community. Bring a mosquito net.



**HIGHLIGHT!** Arriving in the **rural Sepik region** and meandering through the many waterways will be a highlight in and of itself. Numerous tribes reside in this region and while canoeing along the Sepik River and its tributaries you'll see many of the local people who still maintain a **traditional lifestyle** including crocodile hunting.

#### Day 4

**September 12, 2012 (Meals: B, L, D)**

On this day, you'll have a half day together with the **community at Kanganamun Village** where you'll visit their haus tambaran and see traditional artifacts and carvings. Following lunch, the group will proceed to **Yajaim Village** and on to **Palimbe**, while experiencing the **peacefulness of the Sepik River**. During the journey, you'll witness an **authentic singsing** and also see how the locals **cook sago, carve wood, paint** with typical materials and **weave baskets**. Watching these kinds of activities will provide you with insight into exactly how the people in this area live. You'll also see many different kinds of birds that inhabit the area. Overnight at Kanganamun.



**HIGHLIGHT!** These villages located on the banks of the river are known for their wide variety of **carvings and crafts**. You'll have a chance to meet and **visit with the carvers** and bring home some authentic souvenirs from this very remote area.

#### Day 5

**September 13, 2012 (Meals: B, L, D)**

On this day, you will have an early breakfast and then set out to **Terence, Urther Maringe** and **Aibom** villages. As you head down the river, you'll see locals **fishing in dugout canoes**. You'll also see more bird and wildlife (possibly crocodiles) alongside the riverbank. You will continue on along the waterway passing **Kambige Village**, where you'll stop for a brief time prior to continuing on to **Chambri Lake** and back to **Pagwi**. Here you'll meet the vehicle and return to Wewak. Overnight in Wewak.

#### Day 6

**September 14, 2012 (Meals: B, L, D)**

After breakfast, the group will head to the airport for a flight to **Port Moresby** and then onward to **Goroka**. Upon arrival in Goroka, the group will be met by a local guide and transfer to the hotel. Overnight in Goroka.



**HIGHLIGHT!** Goroka is located in the **Highlands** of Papua New Guinea. This region is located in a **verdant and tropical mountain range**. You will be welcomed by **fresh air, wild flowers** and **vast greenery**.

#### Day 7

**September 15, 2012 (Meals: B, L, D)**

After breakfast, you'll go to the Goroka showgrounds for a full day of the **Goroka Singing**. Weather depending, the group will depart early enough to see the singsing from the beginning (**performers preparing for the show**) to finish (**final singing and dancing**).

This day will be a full one as you watch performers from throughout the country. It will provide you with the opportunity to learn about the various practices and customs of PNG. Be prepared to **see about 75 very different tribes**. Late in the day, the group will return to the hotel for dinner and overnight in Goroka.

## Day 8

### September 16, 2012 (Meals: B, L, D)

After breakfast, you'll head back to the show grounds for another **half day at the singing**. In the afternoon, there'll be time for a scenic tour of Goroka and the Asaro valley as well as Daulo Pass (which overlooks the valleys). You'll also see the Asaro mudman show at Asaro Village. Overnight in Goroka.



**HIGHLIGHT!** This particular show is a spectacular event and source of pride in the region. You'll be able to **wander among about 75 tribes** while they are singing and dancing (**all tribes simultaneously**) and while each group tries to outshine the others.

## Day 9

### September 17, 2012 (Meals: B, L, D)

After breakfast, the group will drive to **Mt. Hagen** via Kundiawa. Along the way, expect to see **beautiful gardens, small villages, fast flowing rivers, lovely landscape, local markets** and very **friendly people**. You'll stay in the nearby mountains at a lodge and in the evening, you'll be treated to a traditional courting ceremony. Overnight near Mt. Hagen.

## Day 10

### September 18, 2012 (Meals: B, L, D)

Today, the group will go to a small village where you'll get to meet the locals and visit a cultural center that includes a **village museum with spirit bones** believed to be over 200 years old. These are worshiped as gods and are the skeletons of chiefs who died many years ago. You'll also **meet the local chief and his 5 wives** who dress in traditional attire and wear their wealth as body ornaments.

In the afternoon, you'll visit the **Mt. Hagen market** (said to be the largest in the South Pacific), the **Waghi Valley** for a coffee and tea plantation tour, **orchid gardens** and you'll have a chance to watch for the Regiana Bird of Paradise at a local lodge specializing in **birdwatching**. Overnight near Mt. Hagen.

## Day 11

### September 19, 2012 (Meals: B, L, D)

After breakfast, the group will transfer to the airport for the morning flight back to **Port Moresby**. There, you'll be met by a local guide and transferred to your hotel. If there's time, the group will have a chance to do a bit of **sightseeing in Port Moresby**. Overnight in Port Moresby.

## Day 12

### September 20, 2012 (Meals: B)

Following breakfast, the group will transfer back to the airport to catch your **international flights**.