

## Papua New Guinea Mt. Hagen Cultural Tour 2014

Itinerary dates: August 9 - 21, 2014

Tour Leader: Beth Whitman

### HIGHLIGHTS

- \* Experience the **Mt. Hagen SingSing show** which attracts approximately 75 tribes from around the country
- \* Watch a pre-show event where a **small number of tribes** prepare for the Mt. Hagen Show
- \* Boat down the **impressive Sepik River**, known for its vast bird life including Birds of Paradise
- \* **Experience a homestay** in a small village along the Sepik River
- \* Visit the Tari area, the home of the **Huli Wigmen****The adventure starts in Port Moresby on August 10, 2013. Nearly all flights arrive via Brisbane, Cairns or Tokyo.**

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1

**August 9, 2014 – Port Moresby**

**Meals:** Dinner

On the first day, 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 **National Capital Botanical Gardens, Parliament Haus, a village on stilts, and local galleries.**

Overnight at [Hideaway Hotel](#) or similar in Port Moresby.

#### Day 2

**August 10, 2014 – Port Moresby – Wewak**

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Following breakfast, the group will head to the airport for the **flight to Wewak**, where you will 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 at [In Wewak Boutique Hotel](#) in Wewak.

#### Day 3

**August 11, 2014 – Wewak – Sepik River**

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today you'll enjoy an early breakfast and travel around four hours to **Pagwi** by road, stopping at roadside markets along the way. You'll then travel by **motorized canoe to a nearby village** where you will enjoy a welcoming singsing by the local tribespeople. The group will then continue onward to

**Kanganamun** where there may be another singsing as well as a visit to the **village's haus tambaran** (spirit house).

Overnight at homestay in Kanganamun.

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

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** Arriving in the **rural Sepik region** and meandering through the many waterways are highlights all on their own. Numerous tribes reside in this region. While canoeing along the Sepik River and its tributaries, you'll see many of the local people who still maintain their **age-old traditions**, including **crocodile hunting**.

#### **Day 4**

**August 12, 2014 – Sepik River**

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

On this day, you'll have a half day with the **community at Kanganamun Village** where you'll visit their haus tambaran. 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** (a plant starch), **carve wood**, **paint** on bark and other materials, and **weave baskets**. Watching these kinds of activities will give you some 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 homestay in 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**

**August 13, 2014 – Sepik River – Wewak**

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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 birds and wildlife (possibly crocodiles) on the riverbank. You will continue along the waterway, passing **Kambige Village**, where you'll stop briefly prior to continuing on to **Chambri Lake** and back to **Pagwi**. Here the group will board the bus and return to Wewak.

Overnight at [In Wewak Boutique Hotel](#) in Wewak.

#### **Day 6**

**August 14, 2014 – Wewak – Port Moresby – Mt. Hagen**

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

In the early morning, you'll go to the airport for a **flight to Port Moresby** and then onward to Mt. Hagen. The group will be met by a local guide and taken to a beautiful lodge in the mountains. In the evening, you'll enjoy a special **courting ceremony** demonstration by young men and women.

Dinner and overnight at private lodge in the Mt. Hagen area.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** You'll be staying outside the city of Hagen in the **verdant and tropical mountain range of PNG**. Here, you will be welcomed by **fresh air, wild flowers, and vast greenery**.

### Day 7

**August 15, 2014 – Mt. Hagen**

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

The group will depart in the morning to a local village for an extraordinary mini-singsing. This private event includes **roughly 10 tribal groups** who will also be taking part in the Mt. Hagen Show. Viewing the performers in a smaller venue is a great opportunity to photograph them up close while they are adorned with paint, bird feathers, and other materials.

The performers will be donning outfits typical of the Mt. Hagen Show, yet each is completely unique with personalized **feathered plumes from Birds of Paradise, pig tusks, shells** and spectacular **body paintings**. During this mini-show, you will see a **courting ceremony**, a demonstration of **traditional fighting** utilizing bows and arrows, a **marriage ceremony**, and then you will get to taste traditionally prepared food baked in an underground oven (mumu).

The group will also visit a cultural center where ancient objects such as **skeletons and spirit stones** are exhibited. These are maintained by the tribal chief and his five wives.

Dinner and overnight at private lodge in the Mt. Hagen area.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** The mini-show is an extraordinary chance to observe the **tribes practicing for the Mt. Hagen singsing**. You will see them **painting their bodies and faces, donning their feathers** and adding various **adornments to their outfits**. You'll then watch the actual performance in the main showgrounds. The **tribespeople are really friendly** and welcome having their photographs taken. You will have the opportunity to observe the show up close, mix with the performers and take plenty of photos.

### Day 8

**August 16, 2014 – Mt. Hagen**

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Following breakfast, the group will leave for the **Mt. Hagen Show**. 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'll watch performers from around the country. Be prepared to **see about 75 very different tribes**. Late in the day, the group will return to the lodge.

Dinner and overnight at private lodge in the Mt. Hagen area.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** This particular show is unlike anything you will ever experience. Ever. You'll have the opportunity to **wander among these 75 tribes** while they are singing and dancing – **all tribes perform simultaneously**. Count on each group trying to outshine the others.

## Day 9

**August 17, 2014 – Mt. Hagen**

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Following breakfast, the group will either return to the Mt. Hagen singing for an **additional half day of performances** or, if the show is during this same weekend, attend the Enga show. In either case, there will be lots of things to experience and photograph on this day. In the afternoon, the group will return to the lodge to **take it easy and recover** from a lively couple of festival days.

Dinner and overnight at private lodge in the Mt. Hagen area.

## Day 10

**August 18, 2014 – Mt. Hagen – Tari**

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast, the group will make the drive to **Tari**, home of the famous **Huli Wigmens**. The drive will take about eight hours along rough terrain. Upon arrival, you'll settle in and enjoy dinner.

Overnight at Mo Ha Inn Guesthouse in Tari.

## Day 11

**August 19, 2014 – Tari**

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today will be an amazing day that includes a full-day tour of **Tari** and some **local villages**. This area is still **relatively untouched** and the people here live **very traditionally**. You'll learn from the local guide about how this community differs from others in PNG and you'll get to see their **rich culture, witness ceremonies** and **visit a fortune teller**.

Dinner and overnight at Mo Ha Inn Guesthouse in Tari.

## Day 12

**August 20, 2014 – Tari – Port Moresby**

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast, the group will head to the Tari airport to fly to **Port Moresby**. The group will enjoy a **final lunch together** at a local restaurant and then have some time for **last-minute souvenir shopping** at local craft stores.

Dinner and overnight at [Hideaway Hotel](#) or similar in Port Moresby.

## Day 13

**August 21, 2014 – Port Moresby – Departure Home**

**Meals:** Breakfast

After breakfast, you'll transfer to the Port Moresby airport **to catch your international flight**.

**\*\* Itinerary subject to change without notice.**