

Papua New Guinea Goroka Show Tour 2018

Itinerary dates: September 7 – 18, 2018

Tour Leader: Beth Whitman

HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience the **Goroka Show SingSing**, which attracts 75 – 100 tribes from around the country
- Watch a private mini singsing in **Mt. Hagen** where a **small number of tribes** prepare for singing and dancing (this is a photographer's dream!)
- **Experience a homestay** in a small village along the **Sepik River**
- Boat down the impressive **Sepik**, known for its **vast bird life and crocodiles** as well as **world-famous carvers** of artifacts
- Returning WanderTours participants receive a **5% discount on land cost**

The adventure starts in Port Moresby on September 7, 2018. Nearly all flights arrive via Brisbane, Cairns, Sydney, Singapore or Tokyo. We encourage you to arrive on the 7th and no earlier as there are few things to do in Port Moresby.

You might consider overnighing in Australia (or wherever your entry point is) on the night of the 6th to ensure your on-time arrival on the 7th in Port Moresby. This will also help you get over jet lag.

Itinerary

Day 1

Friday, September 7, 2018 – Port Moresby

Meals: Dinner

On the first day, you'll be welcomed by Beth and our guide(s) upon landing at the Port Moresby Airport and then head to the hotel. There will be time for you to have lunch (on your own) at the hotel before we gather for a briefing about the tour.

The afternoon is free for **relaxing and getting settled in**.

Overnight at [Holiday Inn](#) or similar in Port Moresby.

Day 2

Saturday, September 8, 2018 – Port Morseby – Wewak

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Following breakfast, we'll head to the airport for our **flight to Wewak**. We'll be met by a local guide and taken to the hotel where we'll check in and have lunch. This is going to be the starting point for the **tour of the Sepik region**. Depending on our arrival time, we may have a chance to visit some **small markets** and sights around Wewak.

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

Day 3

Sunday, September 9, 2018 – Wewak – Sepik River

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we'll enjoy an early breakfast and travel around four hours to **Pagwi** by road, stopping at roadside markets along the way. We'll then travel by **motorized canoe to a nearby village to Kanganamun** where we'll be welcomed by a singsing. We'll then visit 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. Expect that we will all be sleeping in one large room. Meals will also be simple (taro, sago and chicken). There is no electricity in this community except for a few hours via a generator in the evening. A mosquito net is a must although it may be available at the home (we'll let you know a couple of months prior to departure about availability).

★ **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 boating along the Sepik River and its tributaries, we'll see many of the local people who still maintain their **age-old traditions**, including **crocodile hunting**.

Day 4

Monday, September 10, 2018 – Sepik River

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today, we'll have the morning with the **community at Kanganamun Village**. We may be treated to another singsing and also get to see some of their local craft-making.

After lunch, we'll head to **Yajaim Village** and on to **Palimbe**, while experiencing the **tranquility of the Sepik River**. During the journey, we'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 us some insight into exactly how the people in this area live. We may also see different kinds of birds that inhabit the area and, if we're lucky, a crocodile.

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**. We'll have a chance to meet and **visit with the carvers** and bring home some authentic souvenirs from this very remote area.

Day 5

Tuesday, September 11, 2018 – Sepik River – Wewak

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast, we'll head upriver back to our original boat launching point at **Pagwi**. Here the group will board the bus and return to Wewak.

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

Day 6

Wednesday, September 12, 2018 – Wewak – Port Moresby – Mt. Hagen

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

In the early morning, we'll go to the airport for a **flight to Port Moresby** and then onward to **Mt. Hagen**. Because our layover from Wewak and then journey to Mt. Hagen will be during lunch, we'll make do with snacks and a light meal at the airport.

Upon arrival in Mt. Hagen, the group will be met by a local guide and taken to our hotel in the mountains. Take note that it will likely be cool here at night.

Dinner and overnight at the [Highlander Hotel](#) or similar in Mt. Hagen.

Day 7

Thursday, September 13, 2018 – Mt. Hagen

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

The group will depart in the morning for a local village to experience an **extraordinary mini-singsing**. This private event includes roughly 10 tribal groups where the performers will don outfits typical of their tribe. Each tribe is completely unique with personalized feathered **plumes from Birds of Paradise, pig tusks, shells** and **spectacular body paintings**. During this mini-show, we will see a marriage ceremony as well as a demonstration of traditional fighting utilizing bows and arrows. We'll also get to see food being cooked in a **traditional underground oven (mumu)**.

Viewing the performers in this small venue is a great opportunity to **photograph them up close** while they are adorned with paint, bird feathers and other materials.

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 the [Highlander Hotel](#) or similar in Mt. Hagen.

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

Day 8

Friday, September 14, 2018 – Mt. Hagen - Goroka

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

For those interested, today we'll depart very early (around 4 A.M.) for the 45-minute drive to Nebilyer to seek out the **elusive Bird of Paradise**. Depending on the nesting cycle when we're there, we might see **Regiana, King of Saxony** and **Stephanie Astraphia**. We'll return to our hotel for breakfast, a shower and to pack up our things.

We'll then make the four-hour drive to **Goroka**, stopping along the way for lunch. We'll also have the chance to stop at **small markets**, a **coffee plantation** and a **village** or two.

Overnight at [GK Lodge](#) or similar in Goroka.

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

Day 9

Saturday, September 15, 2018 – Goroka

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast, we'll head to the Goroka show grounds for today's **singsing**. We'll depart early enough to see the **more than 75 tribal groups** from the **Highlands** and the **coastal region** preparing for today's big event. We'll be allowed to enter the main arena, meet the performers and take photos during their performances. The show will end by mid-afternoon and we may then have time to visit the **JK McCarthy Museum** which has displays of **pottery, weapons, clothes, jewelry** and **musical instruments**. We may also have a chance to visit a coffee processing factory before heading back to our hotel.

Overnight at [GK Lodge](#) or similar in Goroka.

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

Day 10

Sunday, September 16, 2018 – Goroka

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast, we'll go back to the show grounds for another **half day at the singsing**. 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). We'll also see the famed **Asaro mudman show** at Asaro Village.

Overnight at [GK Lodge](#) or similar in Goroka.

Day 11

Monday, September 17, 2018 – Goroka – Port Moresby

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast, we'll head to the airport for our flight **back to Port Moresby** where we'll be met by our local guide. Depending on our arrival time, we'll have time for lunch and perhaps some sightseeing in Port Moresby including villages along the coast, the Nature Park, Parliament Haus and local markets.

Overnight at [Holiday Inn](#) or similar in Port Moresby.

Day 12

Tuesday, September 18, 2018 - Port Moresby – Departure Home

Meals: Breakfast

After breakfast, we'll transfer to the Port Moresby airport to **catch our international flights**.

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