

# Papua New Guinea Mt. Hagen Show PHOTOGRAPHY Expedition Itinerary

Itinerary dates: August 08 - 20, 2020

Tour and Photography Leader: Alison Wright

The adventure starts in Port Moresby on August 8, 2020. Nearly all flights arrive via Brisbane, Cairns, Sydney, Singapore or Tokyo. We encourage you to arrive on the 8th and no earlier as there are few things to do in Port Moresby.

You might consider overnighting in Australia (or wherever your entry point is) on the night of the 7th to ensure your on-time arrival on the 8th in Port Moresby. This will also help you get over jet lag.

## ITINERARY

### Day 1

**Saturday, August 8, 2020 – Port Moresby**

**Meals: Dinner**

On this 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 a **village on stilts** and the **local fish market**.

Dinner and overnight at [Holiday Inn Express](#) or similar in Port Moresby.

### Day 2

**Sunday, August 9, 2020 – Port Moresby – Wewak**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

Following breakfast, we'll head to the airport for the **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 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.

Dinner and overnight at [In Wewak Boutique Hotel](#) or similar in Wewak.

### Day 3

**Monday, August 10, 2020 – Wewak – Sepik River**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

Today we'll enjoy an early breakfast and then drive about four hours to the river, stopping at roadside markets along the way. We'll then take a **motorized canoe to a nearby village, 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 whether this will be provided by our hosts).



**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

**Tuesday, August 11, 2020 – Sepik River**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

Today, we'll visit nearby villages while experiencing the **tranquility of the Sepik River**. At these villages, we'll visit spirit houses and be able to see (and purchase) fine handicrafts and artifacts. We'll 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 handicrafts from this very remote area.

### Day 5

**Wednesday, August 12, 2020 – Sepik River – Wewak**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

After a leisurely breakfast, we'll head back out on the river to our original boat launching point. Here, the group will board the bus and return to Wewak.

Dinner and overnight at [In Wewak Boutique Hotel](#) or similar in Wewak.

## Day 6

**Thursday, August 13, 2020 – Wewak – Port Moresby – Mt. Hagen**

**Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

In the early morning, we'll go to the airport for our **flight to Port Moresby** and then onward to **Mt. Hagen**. Because our layover from Wewak and the 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 the hotel located in Mt. Hagen.

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



**HIGHLIGHT!** After the heat of Port Moresby and the Sepik, it will be a **refreshing treat** to land in the mountains of the Western Highlands, where **evenings can get quite cool**.

## Day 7

**Friday, August 14, 2020 – Mt. Hagen**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

The group will depart early in the morning to a local village for an extraordinary mini-singsing. The **Paiya Mini-Show** is a private event that 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 natural and man-made 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, we will see a demonstration of **traditional fighting** utilizing bows and arrows, as well as a **marriage ceremony**.

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.

After the mini-show, a few of the tribal groups will remain for a **private photography shooting**.

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



**HIGHLIGHT!** The mini-show is an extraordinary chance to observe the **tribes practicing for the Mt. Hagen SingSing**. 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 at the main showgrounds. The **tribespeople are really friendly** and welcome having their photographs taken. We will have the opportunity to observe the show up close, mix with the performers and take plenty of photos.

## Day 8

**Saturday, August 15, 2020 – 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 singing from the beginning (**performers preparing for the show**) to finish (**final singing and dancing**).

This day will be a full one as we'll watch performers from around the country. Be prepared to **see anywhere from 75-90 very different tribes**.

Once the show finishes, **select groups and individual performers** will be available for a private shoot by the group.

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



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

## Day 9

**Sunday, August 16, 2020 – Mt. Hagen**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

Following breakfast, the group will return to the Mt. Hagen Show for an **additional half day of performances**. Now that you've experienced the cacophony of the previous day, you'll have a better idea of what you might like to photograph and fill in any gaps of what you might have missed. We'll return to the hotel in the afternoon.

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

## Day 10

**Monday, August 17, 2020 – Mt. Hagen – Goroka**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

Today we'll make our way to Goroka. Although only a four-hour drive straight through, we'll be **stopping along the way** at a village for **additional performances** and to **learn about local traditions**. We'll also have lunch at a local restaurant and stop at a **coffee factory** before arriving in Goroka.

Dinner and overnight at [Pacific Gardens Hotel](#) or similar in Goroka.

### Day 11

**Tuesday, August 18, 2020 – Goroka**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

Today we'll visit the famous **Asaro Mudmen** to photograph a private performance. We'll also see how they make their **masks as well as bows and arrows**. We'll then visit a nearby village to photograph dances and also see the preparation of food for a **traditional mumu** (underground oven).

In the afternoon, we'll tour sights around Goroka including the **JK McCarthy Museum**, which has displays of **pottery, weapons, clothes, jewelry and art**.

Dinner and overnight at [Pacific Gardens Hotel](#) or similar in Goroka.



**HIGHLIGHT!** The setting for the **Asaro Mudmen** and other village performances is an **intimate and idyllic setting** for photographing these performances which have been practiced for generations.

### Day 12

**Wednesday, August 19, 2020 – Goroka – Port Moresby**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

Today after breakfast, we'll depart for the airport for our morning flight to Port Moresby. Depending on our arrival time, we may have time to visit the **National Museum, Parliament Haus** or other sights.

We'll have one final dinner together before overnighting at the [Holiday Inn Express](#) or similar in Port Moresby.

### Day 13

**Thursday, August 20, 2020 – 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.**