

12 nights - 2 nights Mt Hagen, 4 nights Goroka, 3 nights Simbai, 3 nights Madang; escorted small group tour for independent travellers with half board, all excursions and experienced local guide throughout.

Please note: If you are affected by the killing of animals, parts of this tour could be upsetting so we advise you not to participate or choose another tour altogether. Animal killings are part of the local culture and rituals.

This small group soft adventure tour EM209B offers travellers who normally move around independently the convenience of joining a shared, managed small group for attending the frenetic Goroka Show and the Kalam Culture festival at remote Simbai. The Mt Hagen and Goroka sectors are semi-escorted (ie there is a selection of hotel options and in the evenings after the shared excursions the group splits up among different hotels and you can dine alone and have time to yourself if you wish) whereas the Simbai and Madang sectors are fully escorted ie everyone stays at the same accommodation and our guide is with you overnight as well. Group size is limited to 8 for this particular tour because of charter aircraft load limits. If there is enough demand two parallel groups with separate guide will operate.

The Goroka Show is partly an agricultural show and partly a highlands sing-sing. Since colonial days the people of the Eastern Highlands have come together once a year to display samples of their best crops and livestock to compete for prizes, and to show off their most colourful and energetic dance traditions. The pride of each tribe is vested in its dancing groups which vie for attention and prominence on the dance ground – often there are several groups performing at once in different parts of the arena. Sparks fly occasionally on the field as jealousy and competition fuel conflict between tribal groups. At the end of the Show, judges award prizes to the best dancing groups. Cash awards have now taken the place of pigs.

The Kalam Culture Festival on the other hand is a small local festival attended by only a few privileged outsiders. Once a year the people of the Kalam tribe around Simbai in the highlands come together to initiate their pubescent boys into manhood by piercing their nose septums, giving them their first pig to kill, and first occasion to wear the huge cane-framed head-dresses for which the tribe is famous. The festival gathering is also an opportunity for resolving disputes (“bel isi”), pay bride price and other compensation payments (in the form of cash and pigs), and feast and celebrate together the traditions of the tribe.

The itinerary commences in Mt Hagen with an excursion to the famed Paiya village sing-sing which is held on the Thursday before each Goroka Show). This event is a photographer’s dream, with an authentic natural backdrop (no visual pollution from big crowds, fences or advertising signs), and opportunities for portrait and group photography before and after each group perform.

From Mt Hagen the group transfers by bus to Goroka with some interesting stops enroute at the Omo Masalai skeleton tribe village, the Chimbu snake village and the ancient Daulo Pass moss forest. Travelling into Goroka by road also avoids the flight chaos that plagues the start of each Goroka Show weekend, which typically sees many flights overbooked, cancelled and delayed, and ensures you arrive in time for the Show.

The tour ends with a weekend in Madang to experience the reef and rainforest of coastal PNG.



TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1 – Wed 16 Sep AUSTRALIA – PORT MORESBY – MOUNT HAGEN**
 PX93 Cairns to Port Moresby depart 1155 arrive 1320, or QF191 depart 0615 arrive 0805
 PX4 depart Brisbane 1030 arrive 1340, VA39 depart 0930 arrive 1250
 OR QF57 depart 0925 arrive 1240
 Then PX878 depart 1455 arrive Mt Hagen 1625 or CG8544 depart 1500 arrive 1700
 You will be met at Port Moresby airport and provided with check-in assistance for your flight to Mt Hagen. On arrival you will be met and taken to your accommodation to settle in. Overnight at selected accommodation, Mt Hagen
- Day 2 – Thu 17 Sep MT HAGEN (Paiya Sing-Sing)**
 08:00 Depart the hotel for a scenic drive out through typical highlands countryside to Paiyakona (Paiya) village where a private sing-sing performance for overseas visitors is held the Thursday before each Goroka Show. Arriving before the sing-sing commences you will be able to watch the performers adorning themselves with feathers, shells and ochre paints in preparation for dancing. The performers will be happy to show and tell about their traditional dress (“bilas”) and pose for photographs without expecting payment. About 10 different dancing groups will perform, mainly from the Highlands, including the Huli wigmen, the Melpa tribe stompers and the Enga tribe with their wide black wigs. Some of the groups will also perform at the Goroka Show on the weekend.
 The Paiya sing-sing includes a “mumu” lunch cooked under hot stones at the sing-sing grounds, and a tour of the cultural displays at Paiya village including the men’s spirit house and the ancestors’ skull house which really is an ossuary full of dozens of skulls. Some traditional customs like courtship ritual and mourning rites may also be demonstrated. The advantage of attending this private sing-sing in addition to the Goroka Show itself is the village environment which makes the experience more authentic, the smaller crowd from just the one village area is easy to socialise with, and the photography in the bush setting without buildings, fences and advertising signs in the background is much more rewarding.
 If the afternoon rains hold off after the sing-sing your tour bus will drive you further west along the Highlands Highway as far as the border between Western Highlands and Enga Province, then return to Mt Hagen. On the outward drive please note any photo stops you’d like to make on the way back and notify the guide or driver.
 Overnight Highlander Hotel, Mt Hagen, includes breakfast
- Day 3 – Fri 18 Sep MT HAGEN / GOROKA (private bus trip with village stops)**
 08:00 Check out of the hotel and load your bags in our charter bus for 08:30 departure to Goroka. Normally the drive takes 4 hours but today’s transfer will take the whole day with sightseeing and lunch stops enroute.
 The Highlands Highway runs east from Mt Hagen, passing first through the market gardens, and coffee and tea plantations of the Waghi Valley. This valley is often called the “food bowl” of PNG because of the intensive agricultural activities and in fact at the village of Kuk near Mt Hagen archaeologists found evidence that the area has been planted with food crops for thousands of years.
 From the Waghi Valley the highway passes through the small towns of Kudjip and Minj then climbs into the alpine Chimbu Province with its precipitous ravines and steep mountainsides amazingly covered in furrowed gardens with people working away in them... “One foot uphill, one foot downhill” as the locals sometimes joke.
 The first stop late morning will be at Mindima village in the Chimbu province to see the

villagers of the Omo Masalai tribe perform their ghoulish but slightly comical “skeleton dance” and a demonstration of their local courtship ritual.

Back on the highway PNG’s highest peak, Mt Wilhelm, comes in to view on the left as the bus winds its way to Kundiawa town, the “capital” of Chimbu, for a lunch stop at the Mt Wilhelm hotel (included).

One hour further on brings you to the “snake village” where the local people have a strange affinity for snakes and like to keep them as pets, although the poisonous ones stay in cages ☺ . You’ll see the locals showing off their pythons and tree snakes and have a turn at handling them if you wish. If you are not a “snake person” you can huddle in the bus ☺ From the snake village, continue another hour to the peak of the Daulo Pass, a high altitude biodiversity hotspot where the road winds through swirling mists past giant tree ferns and trickling waterfalls. Local children sell flowers on the side of the road here. If it’s not raining by this time you will be able to take a guided walk through the ancient moss forest which is populated by flowering and non-flowering trees and ferns which form a substrate for the growth of a wide variety of saprophytic native orchids, green mosses and colourful fungi, lichens, liverworts and leafy epiphytes. Birds of paradise also frequent the area. From the Daulo Pass the road descends through the fertile Asaro Valley and finally into Goroka town.

16:00 (approx.) On arrival in Goroka you will be checked in at your accommodation and have some time to rest and settle in before dinner. 18:30 Bus transfer to dinner (Bird of Paradise Hotel, Pacific Gardens Hotel, Goroka Steak House or Mandarin Chinese Restaurant, depending on availability). Overnight at selected accommodation, Goroka, includes breakfast

NOTE: meals in Goroka

Breakfast is included in all packages and boxed lunch is included with each day’s excursions. Dinners are only included in the 4.0 star package and must be taken at the hotel. All other guests will be bussed to a different restaurant each evening for dinner (on pay-as-you-go basis). Groceries for self-catering and cheap take-out eats can be purchased from local shops, most of which close at 18:00. Please note that some all of the smaller motels and lodges are alcohol free – you can enquire about yours at the time of booking.

Day 4 – Sat 19 Sep

GOROKA (Goroka Show + village excursion)

07:00 Breakfast

07:30-08:00 Pick up from your accommodation for transfer to the show grounds in time to photograph some of the performing groups getting dressed then settle into your seat ready for the start of the sing-sing program around 09:00am.

The tourist seating has good views of the performance area and your tourist pass (provided as part of your tour package) gives you blanket permission to enter the performance area if you wish to take close-up photographs. Special toilets for tourists are situated nearby.

A number of our guides will accompany our group today to interpret the performances for you. Bottled water is supplied.

12:00 A boxed lunch is served at the show ground (e.g. pizza or Chinese).

14:00 Depart from the Show grounds and head straight to a local village about 45 minutes’ drive out of town. This is a typical semi-rural highlands village with round huts made of bush materials, smoky cooking fires and pigs and chickens wandering around. At the village some traditional-style food is available for tasting and you’ll see local people engaged in a variety of typical daily activities. Many of the locals grow organic coffee on smallholder blocks for their income.

17:30 Drop off at your accommodation.

18:30 Bus transfer to dinner (Pacific Gardens Hotel, Goroka Steak House or Mandarin Chinese Restaurant, depending on availability)

NB The Bird of Paradise Hotel is closed for a private function (the Show Ball) on the Saturday evening of the Show weekend.

Overnight at selected accommodation, Goroka includes breakfast only

Day 5 - Sun 20 Sep

GOROKA (Goroka Show + Asaro Mudmen)

07:00 Breakfast

07:30-08:00 Pick up from your accommodation for the second day at the Goroka Show as per yesterday.

14:00 Depart from the Show grounds and drive 30 minutes out the Highlands Highway through the Asaro Valley to Asaro village to see a performance of the Asaro mudmen in their home environment. Yes it's staged just for you and it's a little corny but it's brilliant entertainment and fantastic photography in the forest setting without the festival crowds and fences in the background.

17:30 Drop off at your accommodation.

18:30 Bus transfer to dinner (Bird of Paradise Hotel, Pacific Gardens Hotel, Goroka Steak House or Mandarin Chinese Restaurant, depending on availability).

Overnight at selected accommodation, Goroka includes breakfast only

Day 6 – Mon 21 Sep

GOROKA (Mt Gahavisuka Forest Park Trip)

08:00 Breakfast

09:00 Depart from the hotel for an outing 45 minutes' drive to the north east of Goroka town to Mt Gahavisuka Forest Park, a beautiful 80 hectare area of protected forest with walking trails, some curated botanical gardens and a scenic lookout at the summit.

The area offers something for everybody. If you are a fit hiker you can take the 2 hour steep walk to the summit which has expansive views of Goroka and the Asaro Valley, and one hour to descend.

If you are a less serious walker you can enjoy some of the undulating paths around the base of the mountain, passing by pretty streams and waterfalls and a huge variety of flowering and non-flowering plants.

If you are a birder you can settle quietly onto a rock or log in among the vegetation and study the tree birds flitting about in the branches above (several species of bird of paradise inhabit the park) and shy ground birds including the giant cassowary poking around in the leaf litter underneath. Bring an umbrella because there is bound to be a shower or two during the day – that's why everything is so green. Guides are available to accompany you so you don't get lost.

13:00 a picnic lunch is served at the park, followed by a candid (unplanned) visit to a small village located in the park area.

16:00 Return to hotel. Overnight at selected accommodation, Goroka includes breakfast only.



<p>Day 7 – Tue 22 Sep</p>	<p>GOROKA / SIMBAI (explore Simbai)</p> <p>07:00 Check out of you hotel and transfer to Goroka airport.08:00 Your charter flight departs for Simbai, a 45-minute flight north west of Goroka, if the weather is clear at both ends. Otherwise, sit and wait.</p> <p>On arrival at Simbai airstrip you will be met by local guides with plenty of helpful hands to carry your bags for the 30 minute walk to the Kalam Guest House (or similar), a basic but comfortable facility built in local style. Waiting at the guest house will be a cultural group with a “welcome sing-sing”.Lunch at the Kalam Guest House will likely consist of a tray of salad vegetables and tinned meat or fish with locally baked bread buns – make your own sandwiches. Dinner will be a hot meal.</p> <p>This afternoon will be an opportunity to hike around the satellite hamlets near Simbai and meet some of the locals in their homes. Overnight 1 star Kalam Guest House (twin share cabin- includes all meals)</p>
<p>Day 8 – Wed 23 Sep</p>	<p>SIMBAI (Kalam Culture Festival day 1)</p> <p>Today is the first day of the Kalam Culture Festival when the village people go about preparatory tasks such as collecting firewood and leaves for wrapping food in the earth oven, harvesting food from their gardens (sweet potato, yam, bananas), preparing the food for cooking, and sorting out their traditional dress. Chores include cutting fresh flowers, collecting fresh bird feathers for decoration, and repairing broken head-dresses. The traditional head-dresses or “crowns” worn by the young men at initiation are very elaborate and require a lot of care.</p> <p>Some initiation activities like pig killing and nose piercing will commence today, in preparation for the feasting and dancing tomorrow. Your group leader and some local guides will accompany you to witness the activities which may be in different locations around the Simbai area. Overnight 1 star Kalam Guest House (twin share cabin- includes all meals)</p>
<p>Day 9 – Thu 24 Sep</p>	<p>SIMBAI (Kalam Culture Festival day 2)</p> <p>Today you will attend more activities of the Kalam Culture Festival. During the course of the day you may float back and forth between the guest house and the festival venue. Simbai is perfectly safe for you to wander around by yourself. Lunch today will probably be at the guest house – your guide will advise.</p> <p>In the evening you will join the locals for the festival feast. This will include a range of local vegetables roasted in banana leaves under hot stones in a shallow pit in the ground (this is called a "mumu"). You will also be offered roast wild pork or other game meat hunted from the forest (eg wallaby, possum, cuscus, and cassowary). Your hosts will not be offended if you sample only those foods that appeal to you. There will also be plenty of fresh fruit. The two day festival may conclude with dancing around a night bonfire. Overnight 1 star Kalam Guest House (twin share cabin- includes all meals)</p>

<p>Day 10 – Fri 25 Sep</p>	<p>SIMBAI / MADANG (harbour and lagoon tour)</p> <p>08:00 Pack up and walk to the Simbai airstrip and wait for the arrival of your charter aircraft which will uplift you to Madang - flight time will be approximately 40 minutes - hopefully arriving in time for lunch, depending on the weather and the number of other runs the aircraft makes today.</p> <p>12:00 Lunch at the hotel (included)</p> <p>14:00 Board a motor boat owned by the hotel for a sightseeing and snorkelling excursion in the Madang lagoon. This may be a local-style “banana boat” (small motorised skiff or fibreglass dinghy) or a larger vessel depending on our numbers.</p> <p>The tour will take in the Madang inner harbour and port with its sheltered waterways and tidal lagoons and also the giant outer Madang Lagoon which has many small islands, some inhabited by village communities while others are home to birds and crabs only. Stop at Pik Island, a lovely place to swim and snorkel over the colourful reef (mask/snorkel supplied). Overnight Madang Resort Hotel (includes breakfast only)</p>
<p>Day 11 – Sat 26 Sep</p>	<p>MADANG (town and village tour)</p> <p>07:00 Breakfast at the hotel</p> <p>08:00 Commence today’s exploring of Madang town and surrounds.</p> <p>First up see a fine array of Madang handicrafts at the Madang Resort carver’s hut and orchid gardens then stop at the town centre for a browse through the fresh produce market. A poke around in a typical Chinese store is also a must! Also in the town centre you will see Madang’s resident flying fox colony, a love-them-or-hate-them crowd of noisy bickering creatures that inhabits a copse of trees in the town square.</p> <p>Down on the foreshore, stop at the Coastwatcher’s Lighthouse, Machine Gun beach, and the lovely tidal lily ponds of the Madang inlet and the Gold Club lily ponds.</p> <p>Further out of town, stop at the pretty Balek Grotto (see left) which is a cold water sulfur spring where you can feed turtles and eels - the site was used for some scenes in the Pierce Brosnan film Robinson Crusoe. You can take a short walk through the surrounding tropical gardens and patch of rainforest where you may come across birds and other fauna.</p> <p>13:00 Arrive at Hobe village, a small rural community near the Gum River.</p> <p>Most homes in this village are of traditional bush material construction and there is no electricity. The villagers farm the land to grow fruit and vegetables to sell at Madang market as well as for home consumption. The village is situated adjacent to a tract of tropical forest where the locals also hunt for game and harvest bush materials for building and repairing their houses.</p> <p>Here at Hobe you will enjoy a local-style lunch, while watching a Madang sing-sing performance replete with head-dresses featuring ships and planes! Later during a village tour you will be able to go inside a family home and see how they live. There is also a rainforest and garden walk available here if the afternoon rain holds off. Late afternoon, depart Hobe village and return to hotel. Overnight Madang Resort Hotel (includes breakfast)</p>

<p>Day 12 – Sun 27 Sep</p>	<p>MADANG (seaside village and rainforest bat cave excursion)</p> <p>07:00 Breakfast</p> <p>08:00am Commence today’s tour with a drive out of town past the airport and turn off at the side road up Nobnob ridge to the Nobnob lookout which offers panoramic views of the Madang coastline - Madang town and lagoon to the south east and Karkar Island to the north.</p> <p>Back on the main road, drive further out the North Coast road to Rempi Lagoon, a picturesque coastal lagoon protected by a line of tiny islands running parallel to the beach. More of the Robinson Crusoe movie was shot here at Rempi Lagoon and in the adjacent rainforest on shore. On arrival at Wargidan village the locals will welcome you then paddle you out to the little islands in a native dugout canoe and you can do some exploring then paddle back to shore again. Don’t hesitate to ask for your turn with the paddle, it’s great fun even if you go around in circles ☺ The local dugout canoes have stabilising outrigger arms which prevent them from tipping over. And wherever you see a flash of brilliant colours in the water you can jump out with a mask and snorkel for a spot of reef snorkelling. Back at Wargidan village a local style seafood lunch is prepared for you with some fish barbequed under hot stones or coals and some local vegetables cooked with coconut and seafood in traditional clay pots.</p> <p>After lunch, say farewell to the lagoon and head inland 20 minutes’ drive to the Warwin Creek rainforest. Here a 2 hour hike through the pristine rainforest awaits you if you enjoy reasonable physical fitness. There is a steep descent to the creek at the start and a steep climb out of the gully at end, with most of the hike following the verdant creek itself – the walking track crosses the creek many times so you will be up to your ankles or knees in water a lot of the time and your shoes will get thoroughly soaked but fortunately there are no leeches or other nasties in the creek as it is quite fast-flowing. The hike includes a foray into a limestone cave with stalactites and a small stream running through it. The cave is inhabited by thousands of tiny bats which feed off insects. You may even spot a small python lying in wait for a hapless bat. Your guide will provide flashlights for exploring the cave. Further downstream from the cave is a lovely swimming hole with a series of pretty cascades where you can jump in for a fun swim before completing the hike by climbing back up to the road. (If you are not a good hiker, a shorter forest walk on flat ground is available, skipping the creek and the bat cave.)</p> <p>Late afternoon, drive back to the hotel in time to catch the tropical sunset before dinner. Overnight Madang Resort Hotel (includes breakfast)</p>
<p>Day 13 – Mon 28 Sep</p>	<p>MADANG / FLY OUT</p> <p>Transfer to Madang airport for your flight out. Available flights:</p> <p>Air Niugini flight PX913 departing 06:30 arriving 07:55 or</p> <p>Air Niugini flight PX911 departing 13:55 arriving 15:20</p> <p>Our tour operator’s staff will meet you on arrival in Port Moresby and assist you with your onwards connection or other arrangements.</p>

PRICES - PER PERSON IN AUD

Goroka Show Package accommodation, tours and airfares	2.0 star option Mt Hagen: Highlander Hotel standard room Goroka: Diwai Motel, GK Motel (old wing) or Klerht Cove Motel includes light breakfast & boxed lunch	2.5 star option Mt Hagen: Highlander Hotel premier room Goroka: Emmanuel Motor Inn, GK Motel (new wing), or Hotel Phoenix incl. hot breakfast and boxed lunch	3.0 star option Mt Hagen: Highlander Hotel executive room Goroka: Pacific Gardens Hotel includes full breakfast and boxed lunch only	4.0 star option Mt Hagen: Highlander Hotel deluxe suite Goroka: Bird of Paradise Hotel includes buffet breakfast, buffet dinner (in-house), boxed lunch
Land content only, start Mt Hagen, end Goroka	\$9985	\$10,190	10,600	11,620
PNG Domestic Air, flat rate (can quote with international)	\$610	\$610	\$610	\$610
Single Supplement (own room expect at Simbai and 2 bus seats)	\$680	\$1020	\$1360	\$2380

For our North American guests we can quote you in USD, which will be converted to AUD

Please let us know if you'd like us to quote flights from Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific or Asia to connect to our package.

Additional accommodation can be arranged in Port Moresby if required for flight connections.

We can add other packages to extend your stay in Papua New Guinea

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS

- Australian International and/or PNG domestic Airfares (as specified)
- Port Moresby, Mt Hagen and Goroka – airport meet and greet, transfer to hotel
- 3 nights' accommodation in Goroka as per selected package
- 2 nights' accommodation in Mt Hagen as per selected package
- Complimentary afternoon tour of Mt Hagen for early arrivals on Wednesday 16th.
- Full day tour to Paiya village with traditional lunch and cultural experience
- Meals as specified in the package standard
- Private air-conditioned bus transfer from Mt Hagen to Goroka with sightseeing stops, boxed lunch and bottled water
- 2 x half day escorted excursions to the Goroka Show with entry pass, boxed lunch and bottled water
- 2 x half day excursions per itinerary
- 1 x half day walking tour of Goroka town
- 3 nights in local Guest house in Simbai with all meals and bottled water
- Daily guided tours and excursions at Simbai
- Entrance to Kalam Festival
- Charter flight from Simbai to Madang
- 3 nights' deluxe room accommodation at Madang Resort with breakfast
- Harbour cruise with lunch in small boat
- Full day Madang town and village tour with lunch
- Full day Madang seaside village and rainforest trip with lunch
- Madang airport transfers
- Port Moresby - departure check-in assistance and farewell at airport
- All fees and gratuities for local villages, guides and helpers throughout the tour
- All hotel transfers throughout the tour
- Tour leader throughout the tour
- First aid kit and mobile satellite phone carried by tour leader
- 24 hour assistance from tour operator's Port Moresby office

EXCLUSIONS

- Airfares unless stated otherwise
- Travel insurance (mandatory). We can arrange this for Australian residents.
- Dinners except 4 star option, and in Simbai, bar drinks and bottled water not stated in package
- Tips (not expected, and only appropriate for exceptional service)
- Souvenirs and items of a personal nature
- Visas and visa assistance
- Airline excess baggage charges (the free allowance on Air Niugini is 30 kg + 5 kg for international guests or 16kg + 5kg for domestic travellers)
- Personal items such as hat and sunscreen, repellent, medication.

GENERAL TRIP NOTES

1. *'From' price applies to all International and domestic airfares. We quote best case scenario at the time of printing but all airfares are subject to change without notice until paid and ticketed.
2. Prices are quoted in Australian Dollar and are correct at the time of printing this document (08 FEB 2020). They are subject to currency fluctuations and may need to be re-quoted if large variances occur with the USD and PGK rates. PNG Holidays **WILL NOT** be liable for changes in price due to the above and the rate is not guaranteed until paid in full. A final invoice with the amended total will be given to you by the payment due date.
3. Hotels in Goroka charge peak-season rates for the Show weekend and there is an acute shortage of rooms (Goroka has less than 200 hotel and motel rooms). This contributes to the high cost of this package. All rooms are subject to availability at the time of booking. No compensation or partial refunds or discounts can be paid or allowed on the basis of the perceived quality of hotel rooms provided for you while on this tour because the wholesale rates offered to us by the higher quality tourist hotels are similar to the non-commissionable rates we have to pay lesser quality motels when the tourist hotels are full.
4. Package rate for 4.0 star at Pacific Gardens Hotel or Bird of Paradise Hotel includes all meals because it is a condition of booking rooms at those hotels for the peak Show weekend that dinners and breakfasts must be pre-purchased in-house.
5. When booking a Goroka Show Weekender package with us we require a 30% deposit at the time of booking so that we can immediately secure your preferred accommodation, with the balance due no later than 2 months prior to departure. Our normal cancellation penalties apply (see our terms and conditions page on our website or request a copy). Star ratings are an approximate guide only and are not based on any published star rating system.
6. Single supplement. All accommodation included in the tour package quoted is twin-share. On payment of a single supplement levy and subject to availability, we will arrange single occupancy for you at the hotels on this tour. The single supplement charge is a flat rate and covers the cost of the extra rooms and our service fee for the additional arrangements. If you are travelling alone and you do not pay the single supplement, or if single supplement is not available, we will room you with another member of the tour group of the same gender. Smoking won't be allowed in any of the hotel or guest house rooms on this tour.
7. Extras. Bar drinks, between-meal snacks, any meals not included in the package, and other extras at hotels can be paid for in cash or with credit card direct to the hotel or restaurant.
8. Safety and security. Papua New Guinea is sometimes portrayed as a dangerous destination, but although street crime is a concern in some urban areas and tribal fights are prevalent in some parts of the Highlands, the vast majority of the country, especially the rural areas, is safe and welcoming. It is very uncommon for a tourist to be a victim of crime in PNG because tourists do not usually visit areas where crime or tribal violence are prevalent. Nevertheless, PNG Holidays takes the safety and security of our visitors seriously and all tours we offer involve destinations that we rate as safe.
9. Climate and clothing. In the Highlands areas like Goroka, the days are generally warm and sunny with moderately cold nights and mornings. We suggest visitors pack clothes made predominantly of cotton which will allow an evaporative cooling effect in hot humid areas. Pack a sweater or warm jacket for wearing in the Highlands in the evenings. Recommended sleeping attire is light track pants and sweat shirt or similar. Papua New Guinea is a conservative country and brief or revealing clothing worn by foreigners is frowned upon.

10. Packing suggestions. We suggest that your packing list include: rain poncho; we recommend valuable personal items (camera, travel documents etc) be packed in zip lock plastic bags to protect them from the wet; suitable footwear for this tour includes tennis shoes/sneakers, and a pair of sandals/thongs/flip flops. Bring plenty of spare batteries and USB/memory cards for your digital camera because batteries seem to go flat more rapidly in the humid climate and are not obtainable in all stores here. Power outlets are the same as in Australia.

11. Baggage – scheduled flights. The free baggage allowance on scheduled domestic flights is 30 kg and the carry-on limit is 5 kg, when included on an international ticket purchased through PNG Holidays. Domestic checked-in allowance is 16 kg as a standalone. Naturally you can check more baggage if you are prepared to pay the excess baggage rate which is upwards of PGK50 per kilogram. Due to narrow-body turbo-prop aircraft operating some scheduled flights, large carry-on items may be taken off you and stored in the hold even if the weight is under the carry-on limit. Liquids are permitted in both checked baggage and carry-on for domestic flights but pressurised aerosol spray cans are not permitted on any domestic flights in PNG either in checked luggage OR carry-on. Bring pump-action sprays or roll-ons. When flying out on your international flight, pack all gels, lotions and other liquids in your checked baggage as carry-on luggage will be hand searched and liquids including water bottles will be removed. If you have liquids that you need during the flight, declare them, to airline staff at check-in.

12. If you are on a gluten free diet or require other special food just let us know in advance and we will do our best to accommodate you, but you should take snacks, special milk. Gluten free cereals etc. as not all items will be available (remember, this is a third world country).

13. Water. Town water supplies in Papua New Guinea are treated and officially rated as safe to drink. However, to prevent discomfort from drinking from a different water supply every day as you progress through your tour, we recommend you drink bottled water, or use water purification tablets.

14. Visas. Tourist visas are NOT available on arrival at Port Moresby airport at the moment due to the outburst of Coronavirus. You can pre-purchase your visa at this link: <https://evisa.ica.gov.pg/evisa/account/apply>. Please note your passport must have at least 6 months validity left on it in order to be issued a PNG visa. Passport-holders of central and eastern European countries, Middle Eastern countries, African and Caribbean countries must normally apply for a visa at least 6 weeks in advance, from a PNG embassy or high commission (London, Brussels, Washington DC, Canberra, Singapore, Manila) or through the Australian diplomatic mission in other countries.

15. Money. The best way to obtain PNG currency is by withdrawing a credit card cash advance on arrival. Automatic teller machines operated by major banks in PNG will accept MasterCard and Visa Card but there is an ATM withdrawal limit of PGK2000 (about USD\$600) per day. Larger amounts can be withdrawn over the counter in bank branches located in major towns. The currency exchange booths at Australian and Asian airports usually have PNG Kina currency in stock (banks and currency exchange booths in the city centres may not), but don't change large sums of money before arrival in PNG because the exchange rate for purchasing PNG kina is better there.

16. Package modifications. We can arrange this tour as an 'add-on' to other tours or accommodation packages and can offer much better rates on domestic airfares if bundled together with international flights.

17. Places on the tour are subject to availability of rooms at the time of booking. We do not block book hotels. Goroka has less than 200 tourist-quality hotel and motel rooms and most properties capitalise on this shortage of rooms during the Show weekend by charging peak-season rates. This contributes to the high cost of this package.