

*3 nights' Wewak, 2 nights' Sepik village guesthouses escorted tour for FITs.*

This short tour takes you up the mighty Sepik (pronounced see-pick) River, showcasing the villages and customs of the local people. We start in a 4 wheel drive vehicle to Pagwi, where we then take a small boat for our journey along the middle Sepik region. To finish off the tour, we take you on a Wewak town tour followed by a trip to a local island for some swimming, lunch and hot springs.



**TOUR ITINERARY**

- Day 1 Arrive into Wewak, where your shuttle bus will take you to your hotel. Check in to Paradise New Wewak Hotel for the night. Dinner and breakfast included.
- Day 2 After breakfast, you will take a road trip (3-4 hours) to Pagwi, where you will have a picnic lunch before transferring to your dugout canoe (motorised) for your journey to the village for the night. Overnight Wagku village. All meals.
- Day 3 Rise early, have breakfast and then we go birdwatching and to Malu village for some local activities. Continue along the river to Kanganamun village for the night. All meals.
- Day 4 Today you will visit the Spirit Haus (house) and be welcomed with some local sing-sing performances. Lunch will be taken before heading back along the river to Pagwi. Transfer by road back to Wewak and to the hotel. Overnight Paradise New Wewak Hotel. All meals.
- Day 5 After breakfast you will be taken around Wewak town, visiting the local markets, monuments and craft centre before transferring to speedboat for a 40 minute trip to Mushu and Kairiru islands. Here you will meet the locals, have a swim and visit the hot springs for a bit of therapy. A picnic lunch will be served on the island. Return to the hotel around 3 pm for a bit of free time before dinner.
- Day 6 Depending on your flight departure time, you will check out early and go straight to the airport or have breakfast at the hotel prior to departure. A picnic lunch can be provided.

**PRICES – PER PERSON IN AUD**

	<b>1 PAX</b>	<b>2 PAX</b>	<b>4 PAX</b>	<b>6 PAX</b>
5 night Sepik itinerary, twin or double share	<b>\$8275</b>	<b>\$3750</b>	<b>\$2950</b>	<b>\$2855</b>
Single Supplement (own room in Wewak only)	-	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$200</b>
Flights POM-WWK-POM		<b>POA</b>		
International Flights		<b>POA</b>		

**PACKAGE INCLUSIONS**

- Wewak – airport meet and greet, transfer to and from hotel
- 3 nights’ accommodation at the Paradise New Wewak Hotel (3 star) with dinner and breakfast
- 1 night accommodation in Wagku village guesthouse (1 star) shared room with local dinner and basic breakfast.
- 1 night accommodation at Kanganamun village guest house (1 star) share room with local dinner and basic breakfast.
- Road trip in an all-wheel drive vehicle between Wewak and Pagwi
- Boat trip in a dugout canoe with outboard motor or fibreglass banana boat
- 1 x half day escorted excursion to the Mushu and Kairiru Islands with picnic lunch and activities
- 1 x half day Wewak town tour with bottled water
- Local village tours along the Sepik River
- All fees and gratuities for local villages, guides and helpers throughout the tour
- All transfers throughout the tour
- Tour leader throughout the tour

**EXCLUSIONS**

- Flights unless requested.
- Travel insurance (mandatory). We can arrange this for Australian residents.
- meals, bar drinks and bottled water not stated
- 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 30kg + 5 kg)
- Personal items such as hat and sunscreen. See packing suggestions below for more details).
- Anti-malarial medication (recommended – please see your GP for further advice)



### GENERAL TRIP NOTES

1. Prices are quoted in Australian Dollar and are correct at the time of printing this document (18 Mar 20). 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**.
2. Hotel accommodation. Hotel rooms in the towns transited on this tour are generally of three star standard. Hotel and resort rooms all have private bathrooms, TV and air-conditioning (unless otherwise specified).
3. When booking this tour package with us we require a 20% deposit at the time of booking so that we can immediately secure our preferred tour company and best guides. Our normal cancellation penalties apply (see our terms and conditions). The balance is due no later than 8 weeks prior to departure. 6. Star ratings are an approximate guide only and are not based on any published star rating system.
4. Single supplement. Accommodation at the Wewak hotel 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 hotel on this tour. All guest houses have open rooms, so it is likely that you will all be in one or two rooms, depending on the guest house.
5. Accommodation along the Sepik River is basic. If you are expecting 5 star, then this tour is not for you. The guest houses are located in villages, and are constructed from local material and you may be sleeping on a mattress on the floor, with a mosquito net for protection. Many don't have town power or water, but may have solar lighting and pit toilets.
6. Sepik Motorised Canoes. The Sepik River and the neighbouring Ramu River are the only places in PNG where you will find motorised longboats or "motor canoes" still in common use. Although previously found in all large rivers around PNG, fibreglass dinghies are now more common along most other rivers. Up to 10 metres in length, Sepik motor canoes are carved from whole tree trunks and take about 3 months to make. On the Sepik River you will see such canoes carrying up to 30 people or large quantities of fuel drums or other cargo weighed right down to the waterline but for comfort and convenience we load only 4 tourists plus baggage and supplies into a medium sized canoe (6-7 metres with a 30hp outboard motor) or 6 tourists plus cargo into a large canoe (8-10 metres with a 40hp

engine). We do not own our own canoes: we hire them from local village operators in support of our responsible tourism policy. Sepik motor canoes are very safe and in all our years of operating Sepik River trips we have never known a canoe carrying tourists to capsize or sink. This is because when the makers carve the canoe they leave the wood at the bottom of the canoe very thick and carve the sides and prow thin. This way the centre of gravity remains low and the canoe tends to remain upright and not tip over. For stability reasons we prefer not to place cane armchairs in canoes for tourists to sit on (as do some other tour operators) because when passengers sit high in the canoe this raises the centre of gravity of the canoe and makes it roll from side to side and increases the risk of a passenger toppling out of the canoe when standing up to stretch a cramp or take a photograph. The local people normally sit cross legged right down in the bottom of the canoe and for safety reasons we prefer our travellers to do the same. We'll try to provide a cushion or rolled blanket for you to sit on for comfort. We do provide life jackets and encourage you to wear one even if you are a strong swimmer because the Sepik River has very strong currents that are hard to swim against. Although none of our travellers have fallen out of a canoe before, if it does happen to you the best strategy is just to float in the current until you are washed onto a sand bank at the next river bend or until the canoe comes around to pick you up. The biggest danger with Sepik canoe travel is sunburn. Apart from applying sunscreen we recommend you wear long sleeves and hold an umbrella or wear a large wide-brimmed hat while travelling in these open canoes. Normally we provide umbrellas. Despite the brown colour of the river it does reflect a lot of solar radiation upwards under your umbrella or the brim of your hat so it is important to apply sunscreen to the undersides of your face and arms as well.

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. Check with the hotel for local customs in the villages if you want to take alcohol, as some may have restrictions.

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. Wewak and the Sepik are situated in low lying coastal regions where the climate is hot and humid. A few light changes of breathable UV clothing is recommended with a good wide-brimmed hat and good walking shoes. A light poncho may be useful in case of showers or if travelling on boats. Recommended sleeping attire is T Shirt and shorts 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, a one-litre water bottle, a small first aid kit. We recommend valuable personal items (camera, travel documents etc.) be packed in zip lock plastic bags to protect them from the wet (rain, bow spray). 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 stores here. Personal fan and torch, portable umbrella, your favourite snacks, personal hygiene requirements, medication, sunscreen, insect repellent (no aerosols), quick dry towel, soap, toilet paper (for villages). Power outlets are the same as in Australia.

11. Baggage – scheduled flights. The free baggage allowance on scheduled domestic flights is 30kg and the carry-on limit is 5kg, when included on an international ticket purchased through PNG Holidays. Domestic checked-in allowance is 16kg. Naturally you can check more baggage if you are prepared to pay the excess baggage rate which is approximately PGK10 per kilogram Port Moresby to Wewak. 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 your own snacks, special milk and gluten free cereals etc. as not all items will be available (remember, this is a third world country). Your guide will take coolers along with you for each day and given to the local villages. Please check that they are suitable and ensure that each village acknowledges receipt of the food on arrival.

13. Water. Town water supplies in Papua New Guinea are treated and officially rated as safe to drink. In the villages, drinking water is usually collected in rainwater tanks or carried in containers from clean water sources. However to prevent discomfort from drinking from a different water supply every day as you progress through your tour, we recommend you drink bottled or boiled 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 AU\$900) 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 here.

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. Visit a tropical health doctor or GP. PNG has malaria carrying mosquitoes in coastal regions, so prevention medication is recommended. Being a third world country, you should see your GP about any recent requirements such as Tetanus, Measles, Cholera and the like.

18. Travel agents. If you prefer to book through your local travel agent, we deal with them all the time so they can use us and you should not pay any more by going through them.