

4 nights Mt Hagen and Goroka semi-escorted small group tour for independent travellers

This four night program has a twist on our normal Goroka Show weekender tours with Mount Hagen and a road trip included. It is designed for independent travellers requiring managed arrangements for visiting the Goroka Show. There is a selection of accommodation options – subject to availability at time of booking – and escorted excursions to the Goroka Show and other attractions. For the excursions you will share a bus, guide and show seating with other clients booking this package.

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 and brides.



Traditionally the Goroka Show runs Saturday and Sunday on the weekend closest to Independence Day, the 16th September each year. However the Friday before this weekend is one of the busiest travel days of the year in PNG with thousands of Port Moresby residents flying to their home provinces to spend the long weekend with their relatives. Flight overbookings, delays and cancellations are unfortunately rather common on this day and in past years some tourists have missed the start of the Goroka Show due to flight chaos and being stranded in Port Moresby for the Friday night.

Accordingly we are now offering the Goroka Show as a 4 night package flying in to Mt Hagen on the Thursday and transferring by private bus trip to Goroka on the Friday. This arrangement avoids the Friday flight chaos, enables a short tour of Mt Hagen and time for a couple of village stops in the rural Simbu Province enroute to Goroka.

On the Saturday morning and Sunday morning, our guides will take you to the traditional sing-sing performances in the main arena at the Goroka Show while other attractions also take place on the sidelines including the Mr Goroka Show bodybuilding competition, the Miss Goroka Show beauty pageant and of course sideshow alley. The churches, charities, health and environmental organisations will also set up stalls to spruik their messages with megaphones and theatre groups performing comedy skits.

At lunchtime the gates are opened to the public for free entry and the show ground becomes very crowded so this is our cue to exit. After lunch our guides will take you on village excursions. (If you prefer to skip the excursions and spend the whole day at the Show we can arrange a guide to stay back with you).

On arrival and departure at Port Moresby our tour company’s staff will meet and assist you with your international/domestic flight connections.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 – Thu 14 Sep

AUSTRALIA – PORT MORESBY

PX093 depart CAIRNS 1145 arrive Port Moresby 1310 OR
 PX004 depart Brisbane 1040 arrive Port Moresby 1350
 PX186 depart Port Moresby 1500 arrive Mt Hagen 1600

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 – Fri 15 Sep

MT HAGEN-GOROKA (with village stops)

08:00-09:00 The bus will pick you up from your accommodation and commence the drive to Goroka. Normally the drive takes 4 hours but we will be making it a full day tour/transfer with sightseeing stops including lunch.

The Highlands Highway runs east, passing first through the market gardens, 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 and one foot downhill to steady themselves. The first stop late morning will be at Mindima village in the Chimbu province to see the village boys perform the ghoulish but slightly corny “skeleton dance” and a demonstration of the local courtship ritual.

Back on the highway PNG’s highest peak, Mt Wilhelm, passes slowly on the left as the bus winds its way to Kundiawa town, “capital” of Chimbu, for a lunch stop at the 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 handling pythons and carpet snakes and have a chance to touch and take photos if you wish. If you are not a “snake person” you can huddle in the mini-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: real “Lord of the Rings” stuff. Birds of paradise also frequent this area. From the Daulo Pass the road descends through the fertile Asaro Valley and finally into Goroka town.

15:00 (approx) On arrival in Goroka there will be a comfort stop at one of the hotels followed by a guided walk to the cultural museum and handicraft market (leave your baggage in the bus first) followed by drop-off and check-in assistance at your hotel. Overnight at selected accommodation, Goroka

Day 3 – Sat 16 Sep

GOROKA (Goroka Show + village experience)

08:00 You will be picked up from your accommodation and transferred to the show grounds in time to settle into your seat before the commencement of the sing-sing performances around 09:00.

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 and bananas are supplied.

13:00 Depart from the Show grounds and head straight to a local village about 30 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 ready for you. Chicken and vegetables has been wrapped in banana leaves or stuffed into the nodes of giant bamboo stalks and cooked in a pit under hot coals or hot stones. The food has taken several hours to slow-cook this way and when it comes out of the “oven” it has a delightful smoky barbeque flavour. At the village you’ll see local people engaged in a variety of daily activities such as gardening and tending their coffee crops. Organic coffee grown on smallholder blocks is the major cash crop in the highlands.

17:30 Drop off at your accommodation. Overnight at selected accommodation, Goroka

Day 4 – Sun 17 Sep

GOROKA (Goroka Show + Asaro Mudmen + Daulo Pass)

Second day at the Goroka Show as per yesterday.

13:00 Depart from the Show grounds and drive 30 minutes out the Highlands Highway through the Asaro Valley to Asaro village. See a performance of the Asaro mudmen in their home environment. Yes it’s staged 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. Overnight at selected accommodation, Goroka

Day 5 – Mon 18 Sep

GOROKA – PORT MORESBY – AUSTRALIA

PX961 Depart Goroka 0935 arrive Port Moresby 1045

PX098 Depart Port Moresby 1700 arrive Cairns 1825 OR

PX005 Depart Port Moresby 1330 arrive Brisbane 1640

Your guide will take you to Goroka airport or other departure point. Clear customs in Port Moresby and depart to Australia or combine this tour with one of our resorts or other packages.

PRICES - PER PERSON IN AUD

| Goroka Show Package accommodation, tours and airfares | 2* Diwai Motel Budget Room | 3* Emmanuel Motor Inn Standard Room | 3.5* Bird of Paradise Hotel/Pacific Gardens Standard Room | 3.5* Bird of Paradise Hotel/Pacific Gardens Deluxe/Premier Room |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Ex Cairns, 4 nights, all airfares included | \$3500 | \$3950 | \$4550 | \$5075 |
| Ex Brisbane, 4 nights, all airfares included | \$3650 | \$4100 | \$4700 | \$5225 |
| Ex Port Moresby, 4 nights, domestic flights included* | \$3165 | \$3625 | \$4195 | \$4725 |
| Land content only, start Mt Hagen, end Goroka | \$2730 | \$3185 | \$3770 | \$4290 |
| Single Supplement | \$520 | \$850 | \$1560 | \$1950 |

TOUR NOTES

Continental breakfast is included at your Goroka accommodation and boxed lunches are provided with each day's excursions. Dinners are only included with the 3.5 and 4 star packages. For the other packages, for dinner you may eat at any one of Goroka's 5 main restaurants: your guide will be happy to transfer you and pick you up after dinner:

- (1) the bistro/pizzeria at the Bird of Paradise Hotel (cash or credit card)*
- (2) the a la carte restaurant at the Bird of Paradise Hotel (cash or credit card)*
- (3) the bistro at the Pacific Gardens Hotel (cash or credit card)*
- (4) the Mandarin Chinese café in the main street (cash or credit card)*
- (5) the diner at the Diwai Motel (cash only, no alcohol)*

Groceries for self-catering can be purchased from the supermarkets, most of which close at 17:00 but there are one or two smaller ones that close at 18:30. Please note that all motels are alcohol free. Alcohol is only available at the larger hotels.

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS

-) Australia – PNG International and domestic Airfares (as specified)
- Port Moresby - scheduled domestic flight to Mt Hagen (as specified)
- Port Moresby, Mt Hagen and Goroka – airport meet and greet, transfer to hotel
- 3 nights' accommodation in Goroka as per selected package
- 1 night accommodation in Mt Hagen as per selected package
- Meals as specified above
- 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
- 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

- Travel insurance (mandatory). We can arrange this for you.
- 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 30 kg + 5 kg for international guests)
- personal items such as hat and sunscreen.

GENERAL TRIP NOTES

1. *'From' price applies to PNG domestic airfares with Air Niugini. We quote best case scenario at the time of printing this document and will re-quote on the day of request, using all available airlines. Domestic flights sold with International from Australia are set rates, other than the taxes. However, specials may be available from time to time, offering cheaper rates than quoted. Please advise us if you would like us to check for the more restrictive fares, which are instant purchase, due at the time of booking.
2. Prices are quoted in Australian Dollar and are correct at the time of printing this document (03 Nov 16). 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 3.5 and 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 50% deposit at the time of booking so that we can immediately secure your preferred accommodation. 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 and 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. Suitable footwear for this tour includes tennis shoes/sneakers, and a pair of sandals/thongs/flip flops. Bring plenty of spare batteries 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 approximately PGK8 per kilogram Port Moresby to Goroka. 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.

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 available on arrival at Port Moresby airport for citizens of designated countries including Australia, New Zealand, the USA, Canada and Northern and Western European countries; 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\$1040) 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.