



CRUISING PAPUA NEW GUINEA ITINERARY

HERITAGE EXPEDITIONS

DAY ONE

Flying from Port Moresby, arrive in the port town of Madang and transfer to the Madang Resort for the first night. This evening meet with your fellow travellers and the expedition team over dinner at the resort.

Overnight; Madang Resort

DAY TWO

Madang is situated on a picturesque peninsula surrounded by islands and waterways. It is a thriving community renowned for its traditional artists, and the richness of its surrounding forests.

This morning we leave Madang for the verdant highlands close to the township; here the tall forests contain a richly diverse wildlife. There may be time to visit Bilbil Village where the beat of the Kundu drum could be heard, we will arrive back in Madang with time to explore the colourful markets with your Guides. There will also be optional excursions depending upon your interests with birders leaving early for a morning birding excursion. Late morning, board the ship, settle into your cabin and enjoy lunch on board before joining the captain and your expedition team on the bridge as we set sail. Madang and Environs Tour: Passengers who have not pre-booked the Birding Extension Package can enjoy a Madang and Environs tour this morning which includes a visit to the Coastwatchers' Memorial Light at Kalibobo, Madang museum and Bilbil Village before returning to Madang to explore the markets.

DAY THREE

Sure to be one of the highlights of your expedition, The Sepik River, we have allowed plenty of time to fully appreciate this remarkable river, its birds, animals and the people that call it home. The Sepik River, the longest in Papua New Guinea, flows from the highlands to the Bismarck Sea. It is a rich arterial river that has fostered great traditional artists. We plan to explore the river by Zodiac, following tributaries and channels in



search of local wildlife. Enjoy a warm welcome at Kopar Village where we will experience village life and a traditional Dragon Dance unique to this region. Bring along plenty of the local currency (kina) to purchase unique carvings directly from the artists.

DAY FOUR

Seldom visited and little known, Manus Island is considered a jewel in the crown of Papua New Guinea. Biologically isolated the Manus Province is home to a high proportion of endemic species and our stop here is likely to be a birding highlight. Once the location of a detention centre, part of Australia's 'Pacific Solution', life on Manus Island continues according to traditional customs. Comprised of 10 villages and a population of less than 1,000, our visit to Derimbat Village includes taking part in an elaborate welcoming ceremony before exploring their village and unique way of life with a local guide.

DAY FIVE

Spend the morning exploring larger Mussau Island with a visit to the local school and a 3-kilometre walk through regenerating forest to a refreshing waterfall and swimming hole. For birders there is the chance to spot the endemic Mussau Fantail and Mussau Monarch. Discover paradise on Little Mussau Island in the afternoon where we will enjoy a beach buffet lunch before exploring the island and extensive coral gardens home to colourful giant clams and a rich diversity of aquatic marine life beneath the warm azure water.

DAY SIX

Be among the first visitors to be welcomed at Tabar Island's Tiripatz Village, discover this little-known island where our hosts are as interested in finding out about us as we are learning about their life on this remote Pacific outpost. In true expedition style we will explore the surrounding mangroves and ocean snorkel reefs. A full day's birding on the Lelet Plateau offers the chance to see the New Ireland Friarbird, and still undescribed Bismarck Flyrobin among other species.



DAY SEVEN

Rise early and head to the bridge for your chance to see the Beck's Petrel known to frequent this area. Snorkel colourful coral gardens or discover the site of swindler Charles Marie Bonaventure du Brei, Marquis de Rays' (or Charles I of Nouvelle France as he dubbed himself) failed attempt to establish a colony here before heading to Lambom Island in Lassim Bay to enjoy beach time, birding, singsings and a true immersion into village life.

DAY EIGHT

Six beautiful cone-shaped volcanoes ring Rabaul's dramatic, flooded-caldera harbour. Visit the bubbling hot springs and take in the magnificent views of the harbour and volcanoes from Observatory Ridge. As we explore the island, we will see fascinating reminders of the Japanese occupation, our tour taking in the site of the enormous volcanic eruption that all but destroyed Rabaul town, the underground bunker that was the hiding place of Pearl Harbour commander, Yamamoto, and joining the locals shopping at the bustling Kokopo markets. In the afternoon we head towards the Duke of York Islands to take advantage of the excellent snorkelling opportunities.

DAY NINE

A tropical atoll adrift in the azure waters of the Buka Channel, Nissan Island is bathed in rich tropical currents that abound in marine life. Seldom have outsiders had the opportunity to discover this world promising abundant pelagic fish-life and pristine coral reefs. Ashore there are still reminders of the brief, but intensive, World War II activities during which the islands were recaptured by Kiwi, Australian and British forces from the Japanese occupiers. During our time ashore we will meet with the friendly locals from all three of the island's Balil Villages and search the dense woods for some of the elusive birds that occur here. Later the snorkellers will find plenty to discover in the coral reefs that surround Nissan.



DAY TEN

We plan to be among the first expeditioners to re-discover the treasures of Bougainville, long isolated and in a strange way protected due to the conflict which swirled around its shores. Today it is emerging once again as a newly vibrant and remarkably pristine island paradise, it is home to some of the greatest biodiversity in the region both above and below the water. We plan to explore the area around Arawa, including the Panguna Copper & Gold Mine site – the setting for the movie Mr Pip – with great opportunities to access the island's interior and its reefs. Spend your last Kina under the thatched roof of the Arawa Markets amongst the hum and chatter of hundreds of locals.

DAY ELEVEN - FOURTEEN

From day eleven - fourteen, you will experience the Solomon Islands. This includes; Choiseul Island, New Georgia Islands, Santa Isabel Island and finishing in Honiara.

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P&O

DAY ONE

Depart from Cairns at 6pm

DAY TWO & THREE

Sea Days

DAY FOUR

Today you will arrive in your first PNG port, Rabaul. Rabaul is famous for its war history and volcano which last wiped out the entire town in 1994.

Whilst in Rabaul you can visit the Japanese Barges Tunnel, Kokopo War Museum and the Bitapaka War Cemetery, on the War & Colonial History Tour. Or, climb the active



volcano, Mount Tavurvur. If you're a keen diver, you could even do some wreck diving today!

DAY FIVE

The next stop is Kiriwina Island, in the Trobriand Islands. Home to one of the world's most intact island cultures residing on one of the world's most untouched islands, and you are among the select few who are lucky enough to experience them both.

Today you will spend time with the locals, explore the area and experience some local tribal traditions and performances.

DAY SIX

Don't be fooled by the name, the Conflict Islands is one of the most peaceful places on the planet. The Conflict Islands is a cluster of privately owned islands, with plenty to see and do. Take a ride on a traditionally -built outrigger canoe, dive the beautiful reefs and experience the untouched biodiversity, be a part of the islands turtle conservation initiative or even spend the day on a secluded island with a picnic included!

The Conflict islands are the perfect way to wrap up your PNG experience.

DAY SEVEN

Sea Day

DAY EIGHT

Return to Cairns