

## Northern lowlands specialties

### Birding break

#### 6 days/5 nights

Please enquire for an up-to-date quote

We begin our West Papuan birding adventure with a relaxed day's birding in open country around Lake Sentani in the northern lowlands near Jayapura, where we foremost hope to find two rare and localized grassland finches. Early next morning, we set out to our secluded Muaib jungle camp in pristine alluvial lowland forest for a four days' exploration of its rich and colorful lowland forest avifauna. A man-sized cassowary, two megapodes, seven dazzling forest kingfishers, a profusion of parrots, the world's largest pigeon, and a whopping six species of bird-of-paradise await the intrepid and careful observer here. This is New Guinea lowland birding at its best!

#### When?

Possible year-round, but most certainly best from June to November.

#### Scheduled departures

Please enquire for details on our upcoming departures.

#### Physical effort

Reasonable physical fitness and good agility are required for this tour which plies some challenging terrain.

#### Tour summary

Day 1 > Sentani and Lake Sentani.

Day 2 > Sentani and northern lowlands.

Day 3-4 > Northern lowlands.

Day 5 > Northern lowlands and Sentani.

Day 6 > Sentani.

#### Tour description

**Day 1 > Sentani and Lake Sentani** Morning arrival at Jayapura's Sentani Airport on overnight domestic flight from Jakarta or alternative gateway. We shall soon be birding the grasslands and patchy secondary forests around nearby Lake Sentani, where we foremost hope to come to grips with two rare and localized grassland finches: Grand and Hooded Munia. Other noteworthy birds present in the scenic open country here include Brown and King Quail, Black Bittern, Pygmy Eagle, Whistling and Brahminy Kite, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Buff-banded Rail, Pale-vented Bush-hen, Australasian Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Comb-crested Jacana, Orange-fronted and Orange-bellied Fruit Dove, Lesser Black and Pheasant Coucal, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, White-shouldered Fairywren, Streak-headed and Tawny-breasted Honeyeater, Meyer's and New Guinea Friarbird, Mimic Honeyeater, Large-billed Gerygone, White-bellied Cuckooshrike, Willie Wagtail, Glossy-mantled Manucode, Papuan Grassbird, Golden-headed Cisticola, Pied Bush Chat, Crimson Finch, and Chestnut-breasted Munia. After lunch in town, we have an entire afternoon to look for some of the more elusive species already mentioned above. Dinner and overnight in Sentani hotel.

**Day 2 > Sentani and northern lowlands** We shall enjoy a nocturnal breakfast in our Sentani hotel and set out on the two-hour's drive to our drop-off point west of the Cyclops Mountains. After arrival here around dawn, we shall bird all day toward our secluded Muaib jungle camp at c. 10 m elevation in pristine alluvial primary forest, enjoying a packed lunch en route. Along the walk, wacko Blyth's Hornbills, majestic Palm and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, and noisy Brown, Dusky and Black-capped Lorries and Coconut Lorikeets may fly overhead as we familiarize ourselves with some of the common or more conspicuous forest birds here: Variable Goshawk, Sultan's and Great Cuckoo-Dove, Stephan's Emerald Dove, Wompoo, Pink-spotted, Superb, Beautiful and Orange-bellied Fruit Dove, Pinon's and Zoe's Imperial Pigeon, Brush Cuckoo, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Yellow-billed Kingfisher, Tawny-breasted Honeyeater, New Guinea Friarbird, Mimic and Puff-backed Honeyeater, Yellow-bellied and Fairy Gerygone, Lowland Peltops, Black Butcherbird, Grey-headed Cicadabird, Black-browed Triller, Grey Whistler, Little Shrikethrush, Northern Variable Pitohui, Brown Oriole, Spangled Drongo, Northern Fantail, Spot-winged, Golden and Ochre-collared Monarch, Shining Flycatcher, Grey Crow, Glossy-mantled Manucode, Metallic Starling, Yellow-faced Myna, and Red-capped Flowerpecker. Scarcer or

[Page 1 of 2] *Be green, leave it on the screen!*

unobtrusive species we may encounter en route include Long-tailed Honey Buzzard, Collared Sparrowhawk, Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon, Dwarf Koel, Little Bronze Cuckoo, White-crowned Cuckoo, Common Paradise Kingfisher, Orange-fronted Hanging Parrot, Red-flanked Lorikeet, Emperor Fairywren, Green-backed, Plain, Streak-headed and Long-billed Honeyeater, Rusty Mouse-warbler, Large-billed Gerygone, Papuan Babbler, Black Berrypecker, Dwarf, Pygmy and Yellow-bellied Longbill, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Black Cicadabird, Rusty Pitohui, Hooded Monarch, Black-sided Robin, and Lemon-bellied Flyrobin. After dinner at camp, a nocturnal foray in the vicinity could produce Rufous Owl, Papuan Boobook and Hawk-Owl, Marbled and Papuan Frogmouth, Barred Owllet-nightjar, and Papuan Nightjar. Overnight at camp.

**Day 3 > Northern lowlands** Wake up to a true day's birding in paradise as we shall be spending this morning at known display sites of consecutively the Twelve-wired, Lesser and King Bird-of-paradise, soliciting sightings of the more mobile Pale-billed Sicklebill in between. Moreover, while sitting quietly in the forest, admiring the full array of display postures of these most magnificent of feathered life forms, we also stand an excellent chance of seeing other hot stuff like Northern Cassowary, Collared Brushturkey, New Guinea Megapode, Thick-billed Ground Pigeon, Cinnamon Ground Dove, or Victoria Crowned Pigeon casually walking by. After lunch at camp, we shall bird all afternoon in the vicinity in search of more goodies like Grey-headed Goshawk, New Guinea Bronzewing, Coronated Fruit Dove, Collared Imperial Pigeon, Greater Black Coucal, Long-billed Cuckoo, Hook-billed and Blue-black Kingfisher, Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher, Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot, Double-eyed and Salvadori's Fig Parrot, Papuan and Hooded Pitta, Tan-capped Catbird, Tawny Straightbill, Meyer's Friarbird, Yellow-gaped Honeyeater, Pale-billed Scrubwren, Blue Jewel-babbler, Boyer's and Golden Cuckooshrike, Sooty and White-bellied Thicket Fantail, Rufous-backed Fantail, Rufous Monarch, Brown-headed Crow, Jobi Manucode, Olive Flyrobin, and Golden Myna. Moreover, as we roam more widely in these dark forests, it should not take long before we feast our eyes on a party of Victoria Crowned Pigeons, or surprise a pair of Collared Brushturkey feeding on the forest floor. Late afternoon shall see us gathered at an open spot in riverine forest in anticipation of Moustached Treeswift, Three-toed Swiftlet and Papuan Spine-tailed Swift among often abundant Glossy and Uniform Swiftlets, besides at times spectacular evening flights of hornbills and parrots. Breakfast, lunch, dinner and overnight at camp.

**Day 4 > Northern lowlands** Today we could have a resit at the bird-of-paradise display sites or simply bird in search of some of the more elusive species already mentioned above. We could monitor known incubation mounds of the Collared Brushturkey from the comfort of a palm-frond hide, spend time near suitable fruit-dropping trees to seek prolonged views of Northern Cassowary, work stretches of small forest streams for the rare Forest Bittern, or just sit quietly at the edge of sago-swamp in the dire hope of coming to grips with the secretive New Guinea Flightless Rail. Other sought-after birds that have been recorded here include the rare New Guinea Eagle, Shovel-billed Kookaburra, and Pesquet's Parrot. Breakfast, lunch, dinner and overnight at camp.

**Day 5 > Northern lowlands and Sentani** After breakfast we have a final morning to bird in the vicinity of camp. Following an earlier than usual lunch at camp, we shall slowly bird back to our pick-up point where vehicles stand by to transport us to Sentani. Dinner and overnight in Sentani hotel.

**Day 6 > Sentani** We shall enjoy breakfast in our Sentani hotel and transfer to Sentani Airport for the first morning flight to Jakarta or alternative destination.

#### Related links

Browse our terms and conditions from the PE web site through the following link  
<http://www.PapuaExpeditions.com/conditions.html>